

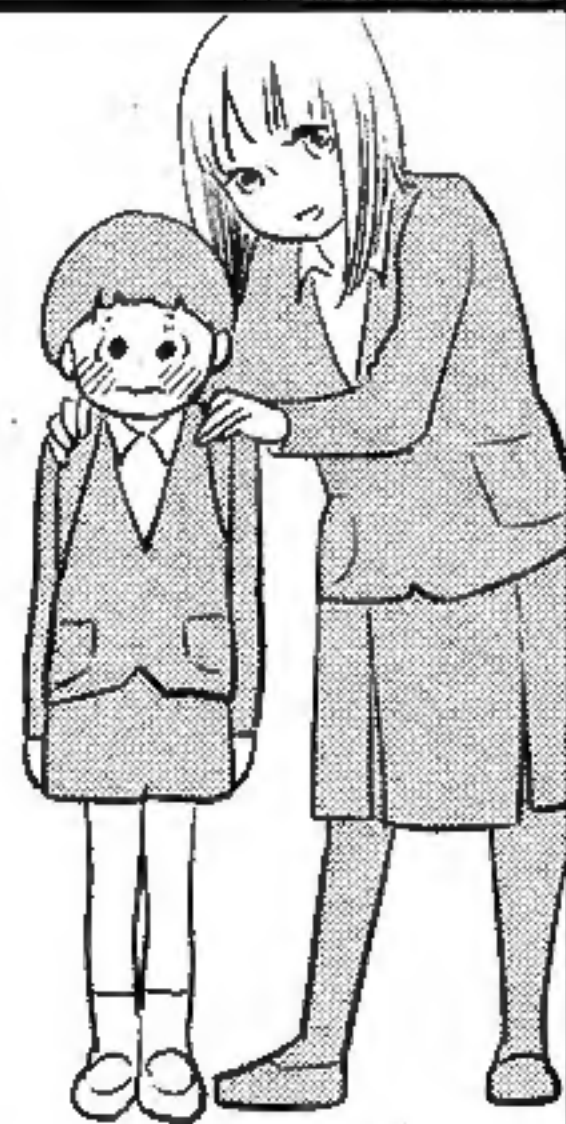
HE WON SOME
SORT OF AWARD
FOR A NOVEL WHEN
HE WAS A JUNIOR
IN HIGH SCHOOL
AND MADE IT INTO
TO A GOOD
UNIVERSITY,
BUT DROPPED OUT
AND NOW PASSES
MOST OF HIS
TIME AT HIS DESK,
RARELY GOING
OUTSIDE.



HE LIVES
WITH MY
GRANDMA,
IN HER
ATTIC,



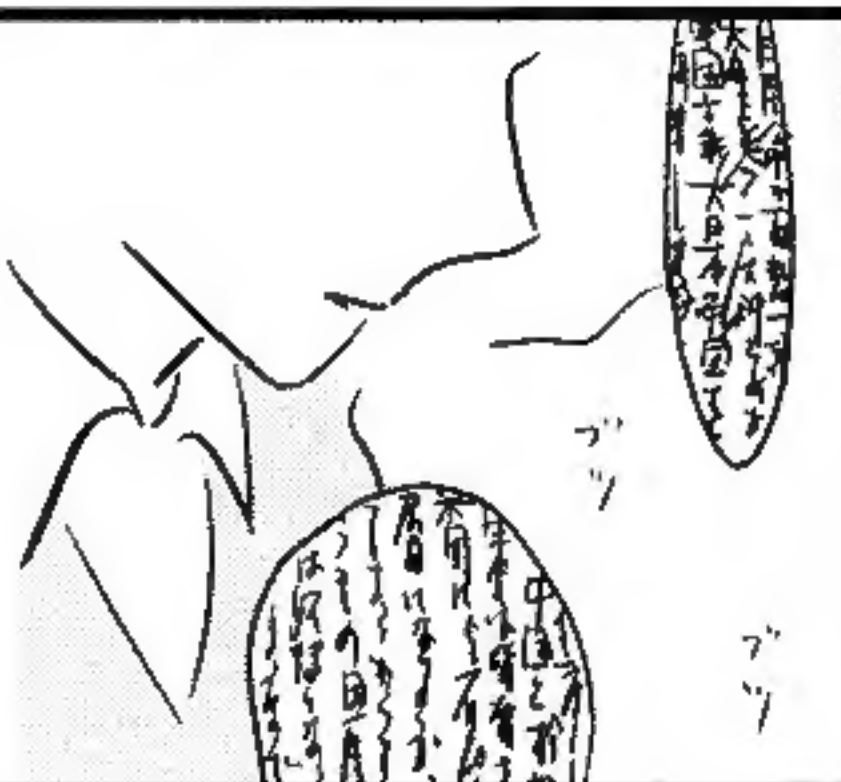
My uncle
as a kid.↘



MY UNCLE,
SHOUICHI-KUN,
MY MOM'S
LITTLE
BROTHER,
IS 23
THIS YEAR,

↑
My mom,
when
she was
younger.

MUMBLING ABOUT
THINGS I DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
LIKE THE
GOVERNMENT
AND THE
COUNTRY,



HE SPENDS HIS
DAYS CHEWING
ON SWEET GOLDEN
CANDY MY
GRANDMA BUYS
HIM EVERY DAY,



PUFFING AWAY
AT CIGARETTES
HE STOLE FROM
GRANDPA,
(WHO HAS GIVEN UP
AND STARTED
BUYING EXTRA JUST
FOR HIM).



HEY THERE,
MIKA-CHAN.

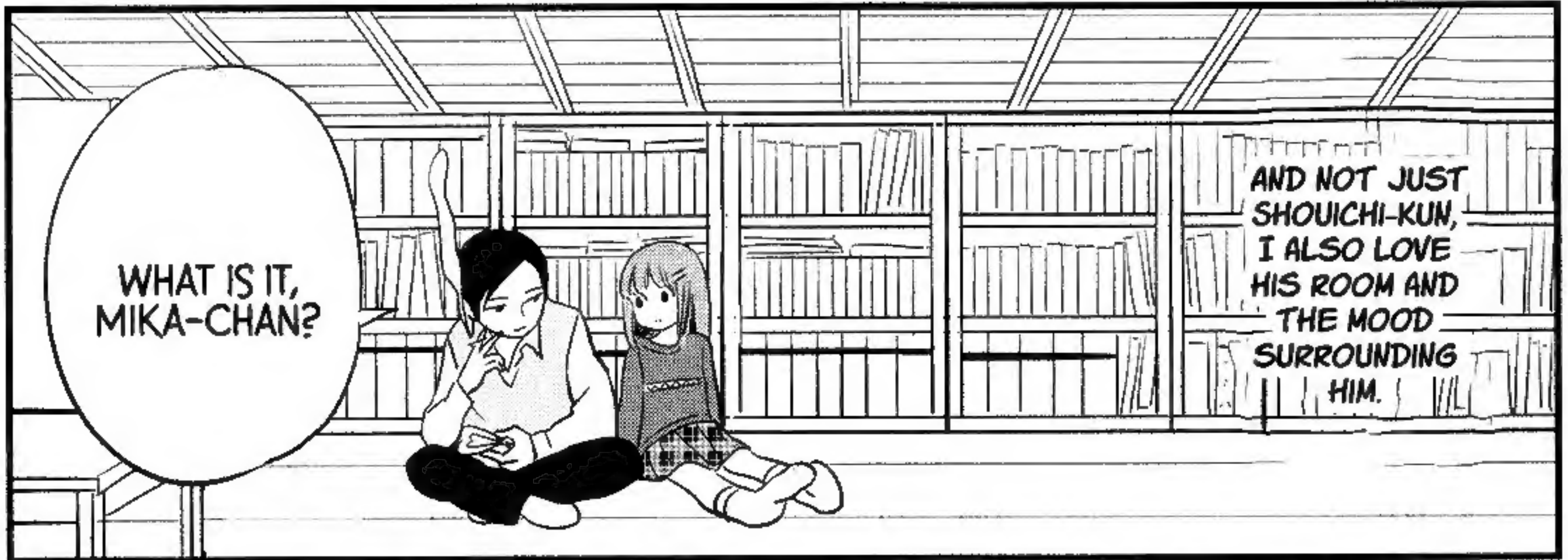
Golden candy, starry smoke
金色の飴 星の煙

Fumi Fumiko
ふみふみこ

HOW CAN
YOU SAY THAT
WHILE DOING
STUFF LIKE
THIS TO ME,
A 6TH GRADER?

MIKA-CHAN,
YOU'RE MY
ONLY ALLY.



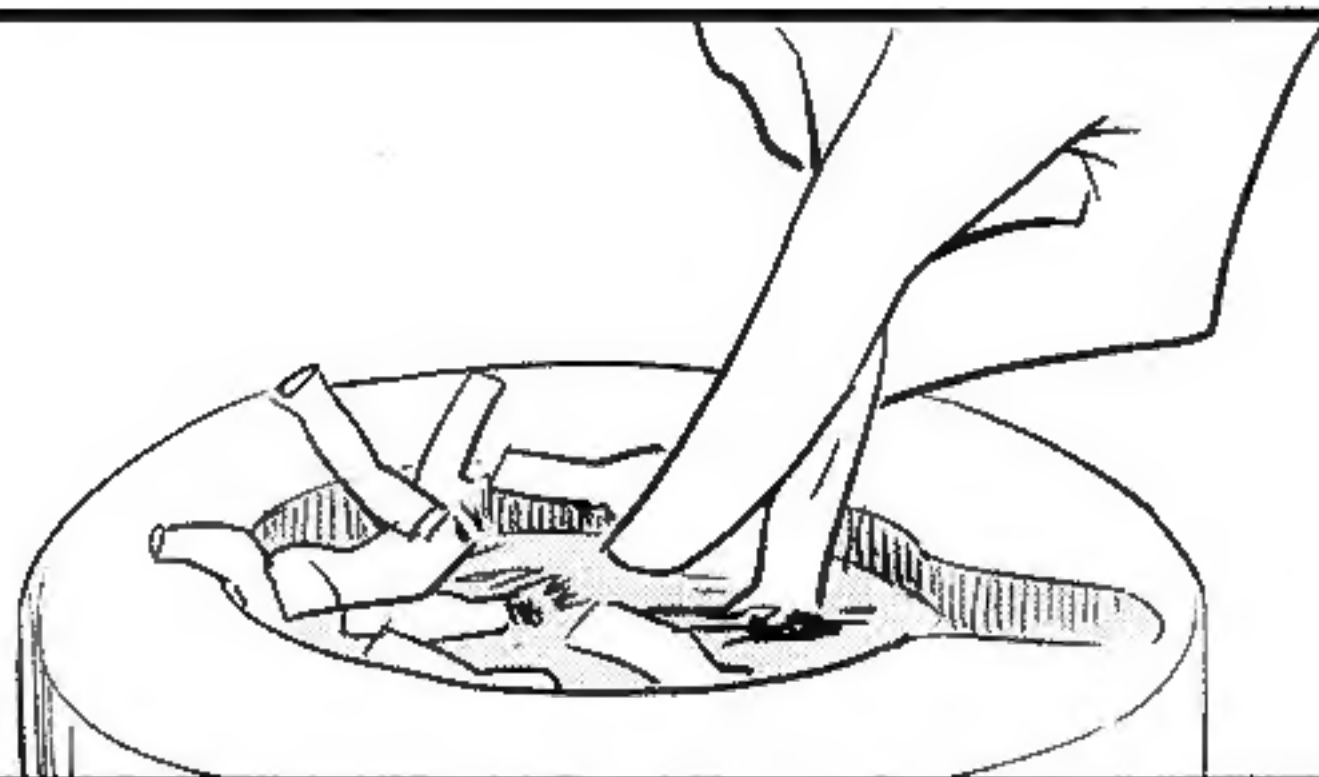


HE WOULD SAY THAT,
AND HE WOULD TAKE
HIS CIGARETTE,
WHICH HAD GOTTEN
SO SMALL IT BARELY
WENT PAST HIS
FINGERS,



IT'S STILL A
LITTLE TOO
SOON FOR
YOU TO
TRY THEM,
I THINK.

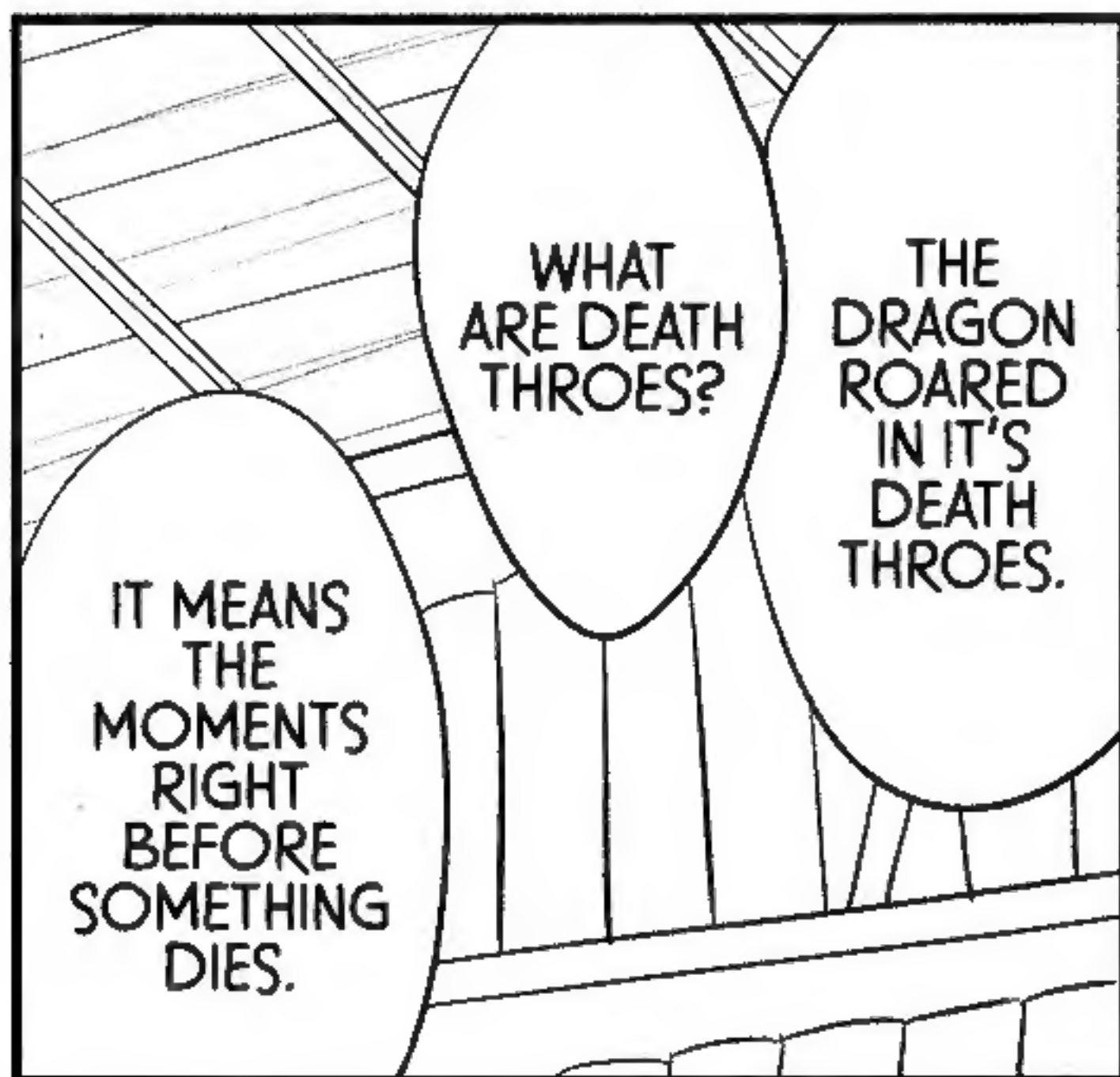
AND AS SOON
AS HE PUT
IT OUT,



YOU HAVEN'T
GROWN ANY
HAIR YET,
AFTER ALL.

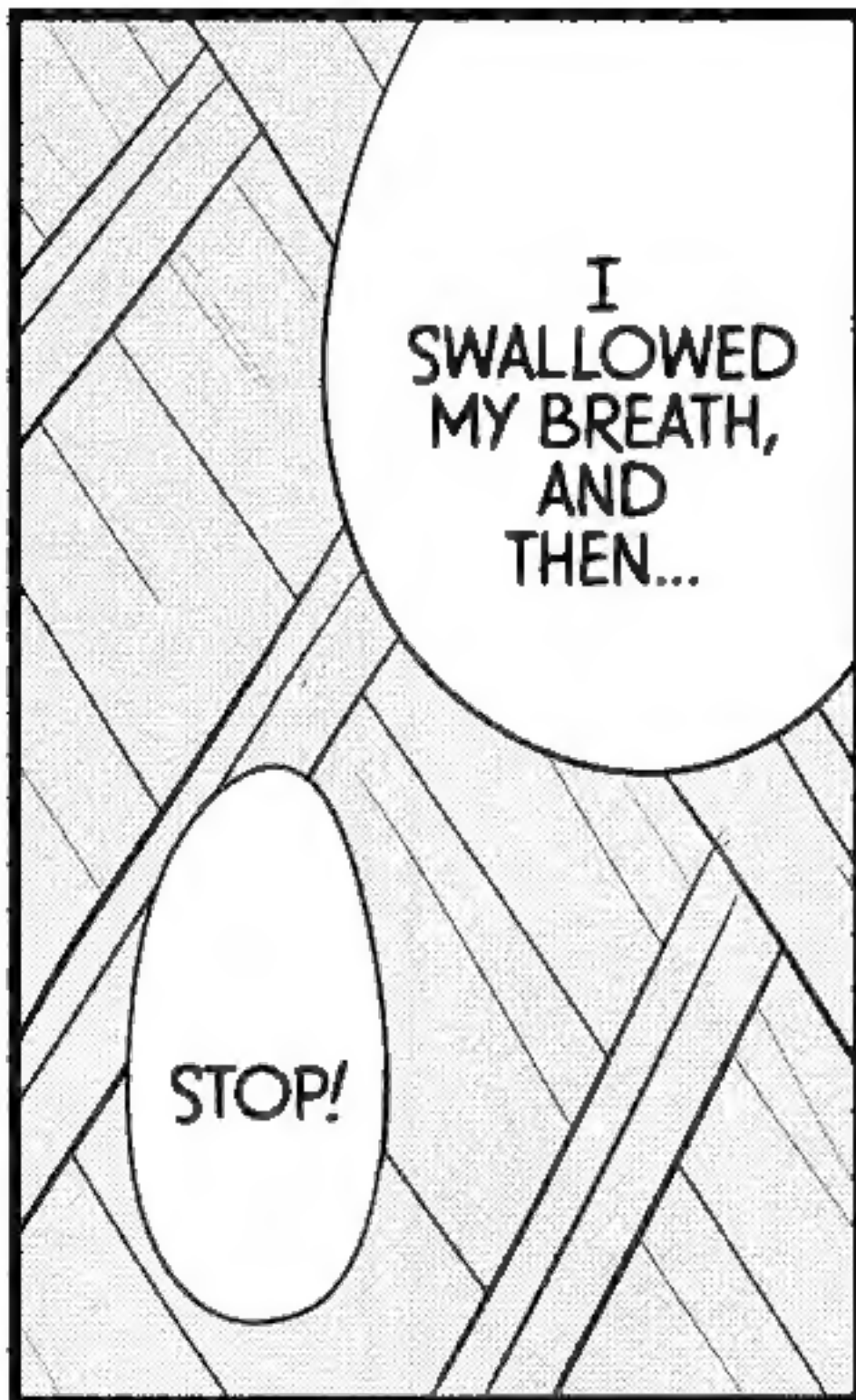
HE WOULD
BEGIN ATTENDING
TO ME AGAIN.







WHY?



I
SWALLOWED
MY BREATH,
AND
THEN...

STOP!



WAS AN
UNBELIEVABLY
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN.

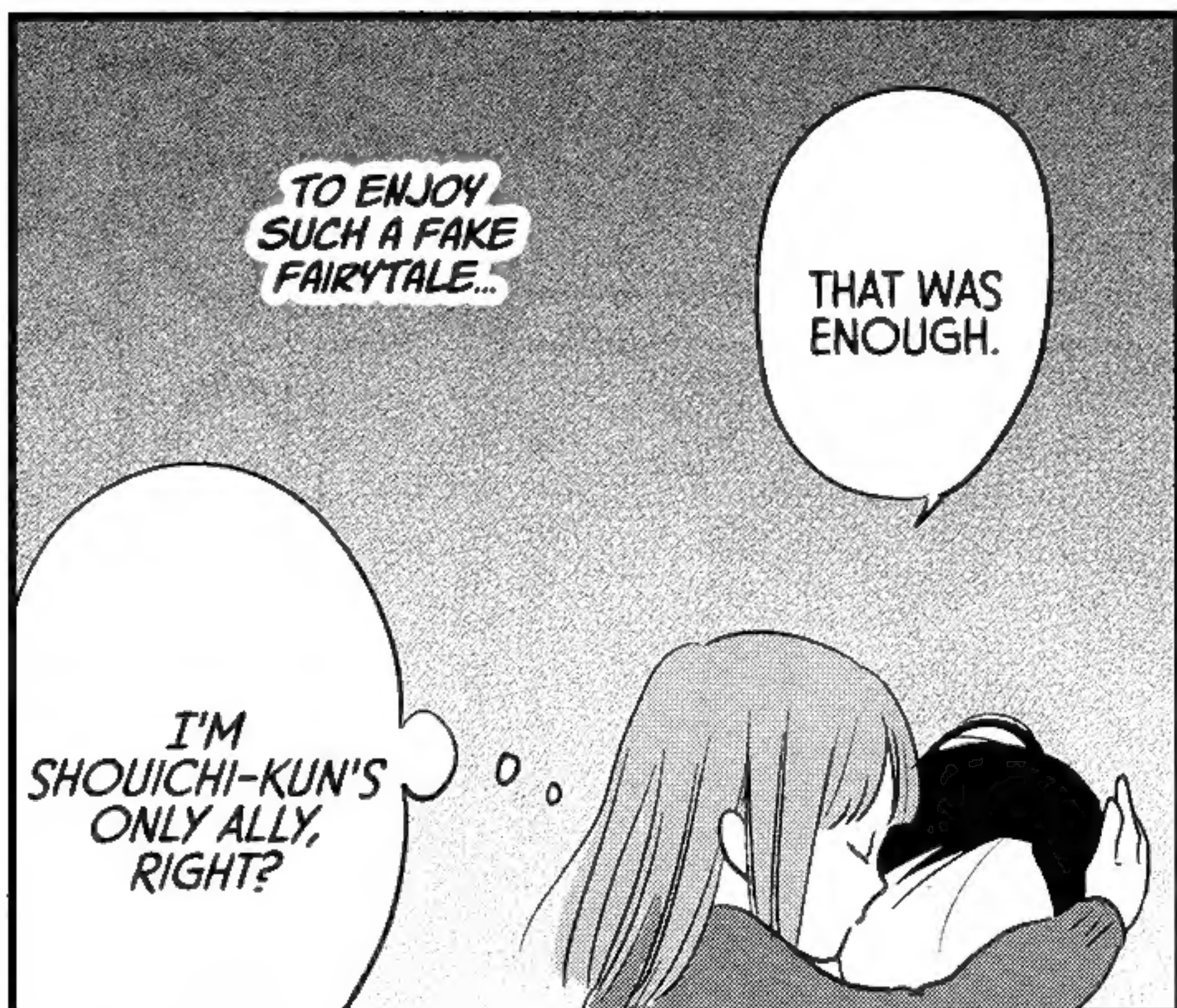


Mngh.



ONLY
ME.

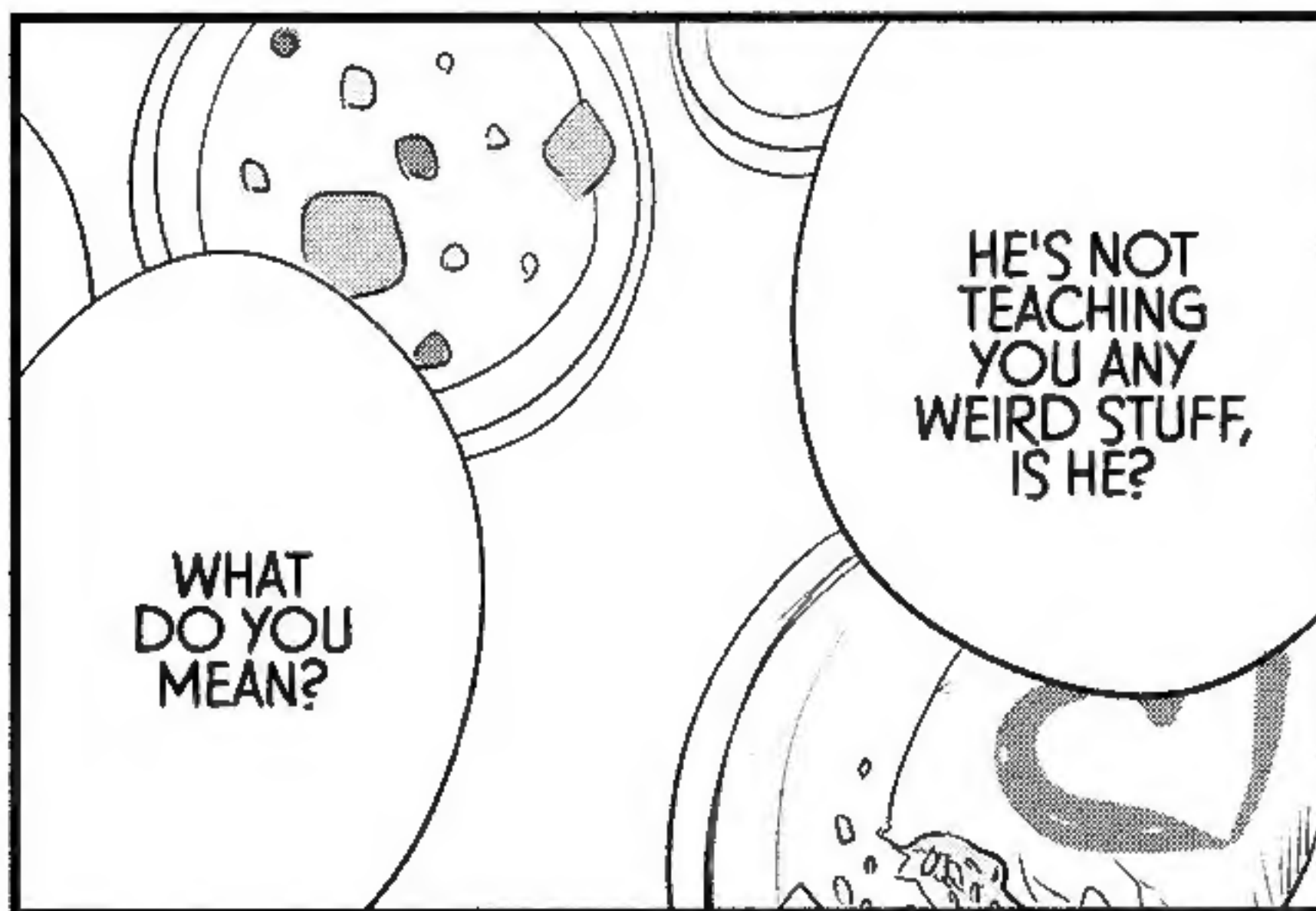
SHOUICHI-KUN'S
LIES AND IN-
SENSITIVITY
PUT ME IN A
REALLY BAD
MOOD

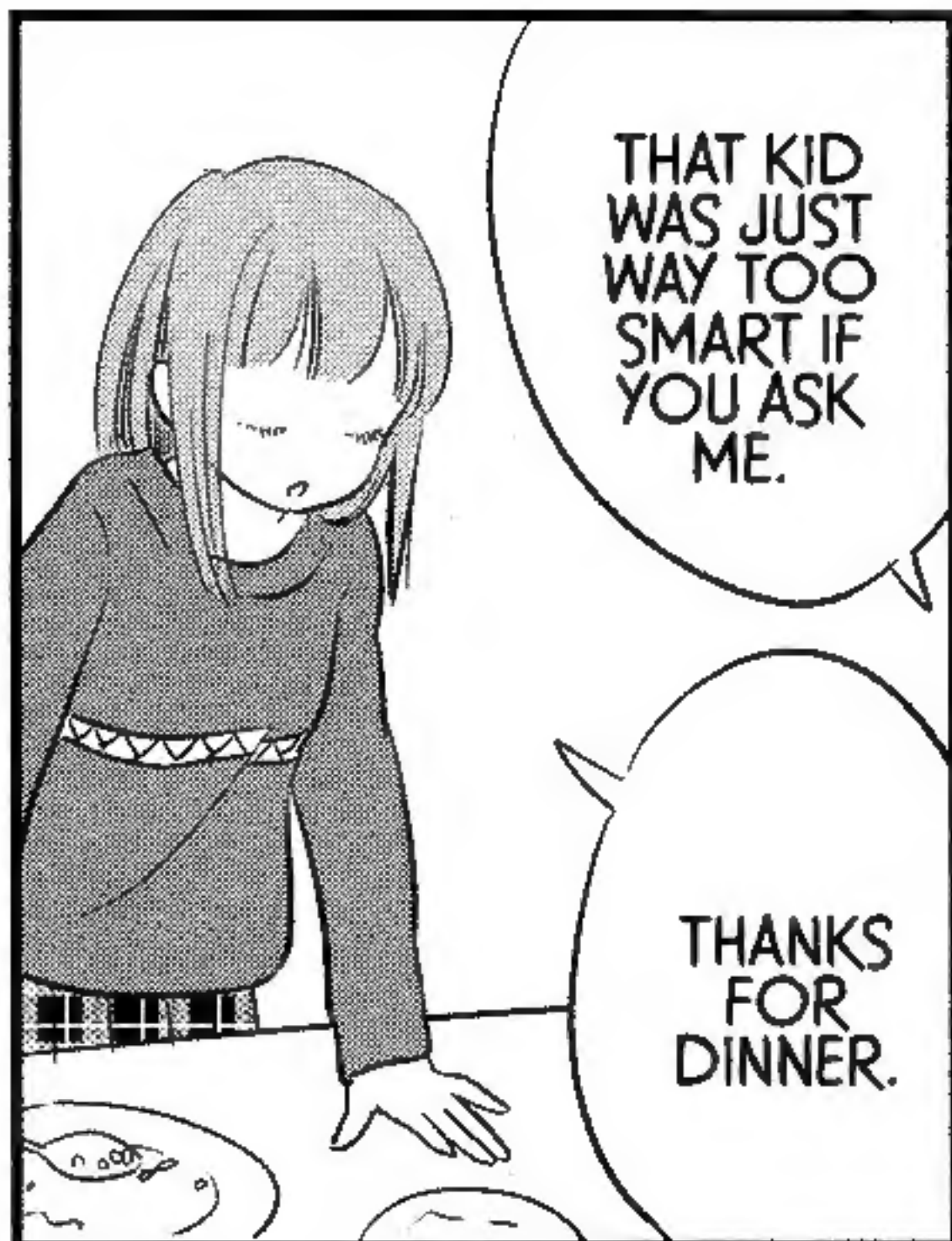


TO ENJOY
SUCH A FAKE
FAIRYTALE...

THAT WAS
ENOUGH.

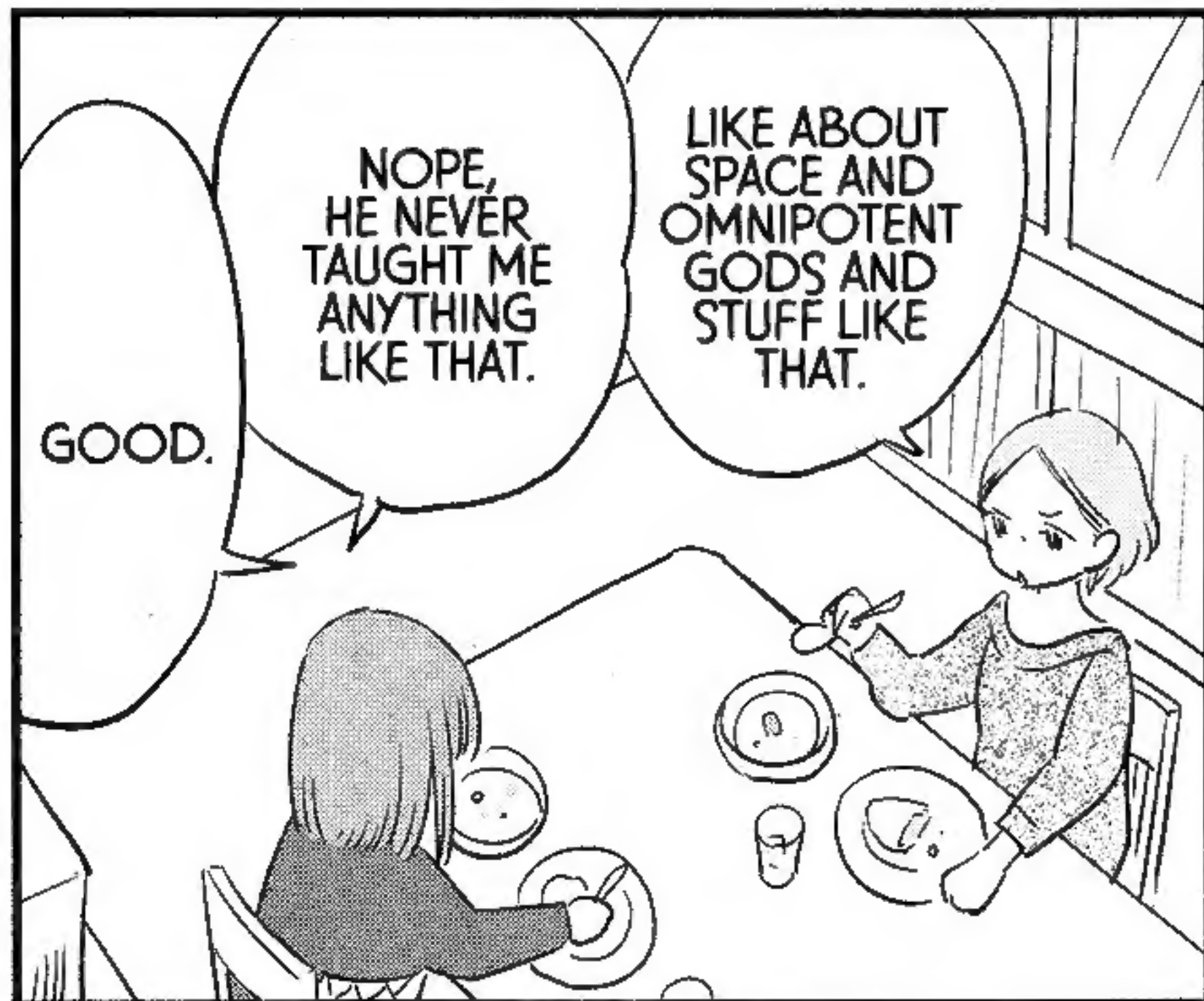
I'M
SHOUICHI-KUN'S
ONLY ALLY,
RIGHT?





THAT KID
WAS JUST
WAY TOO
SMART IF
YOU ASK
ME.

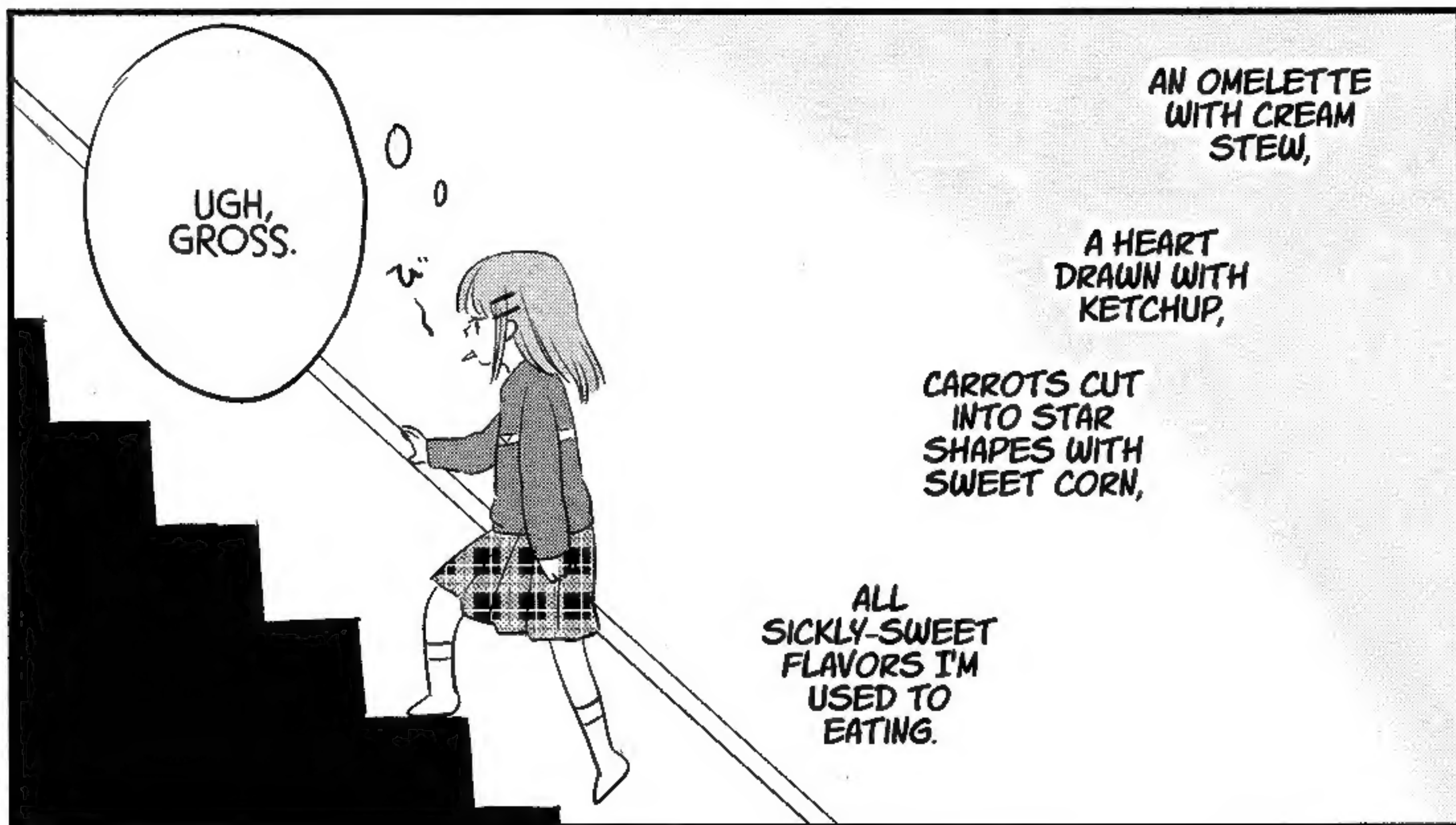
THANKS
FOR
DINNER.



GOOD.

NOPE,
HE NEVER
TAUGHT ME
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.

LIKE ABOUT
SPACE AND
OMNIPOTENT
GODS AND
STUFF LIKE
THAT.



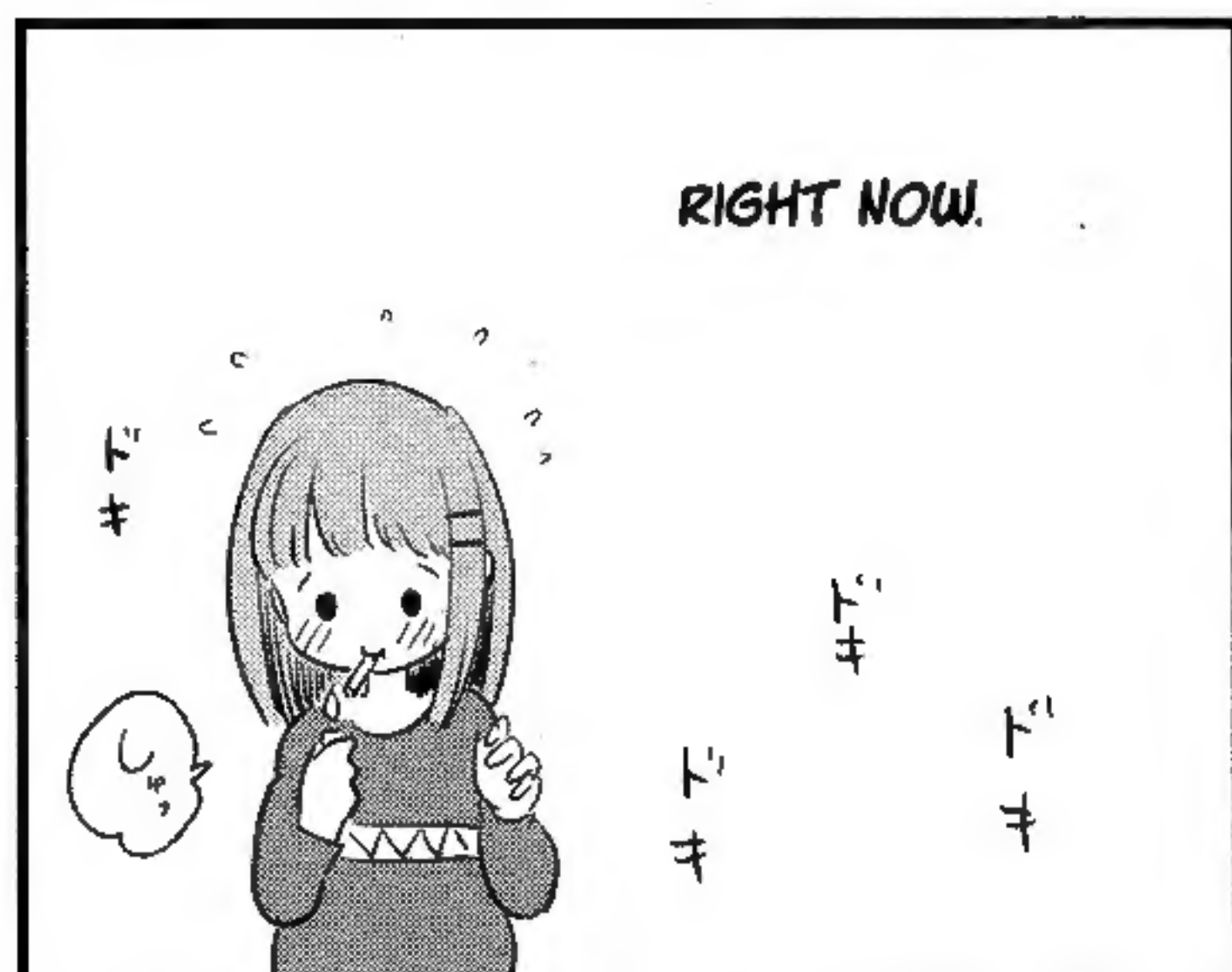
UGH,
GROSS.

AN OMELETTE
WITH CREAM
STEW,

A HEART
DRAWN WITH
KETCHUP,

CARROTS CUT
INTO STAR
SHAPES WITH
SWEET CORN,

ALL
SICKLY-SWEET
FLAVORS I'M
USED TO
EATING.



RIGHT NOW.



I WANT THOSE
TASTES OUT
OF MY MOUTH,



AAAH!

THE
FLAVOR
IS WAY
DIFFERENT
THAN I
EXPECTED.

HUH,

MGH.

IT'S
KINDA
SWEET.

SMOKE!

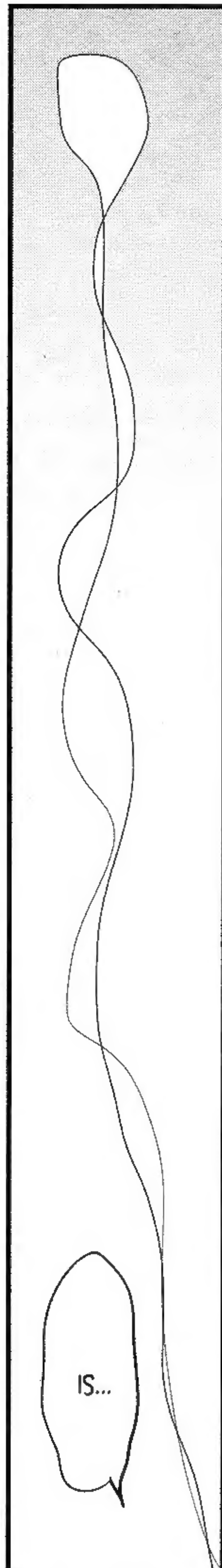
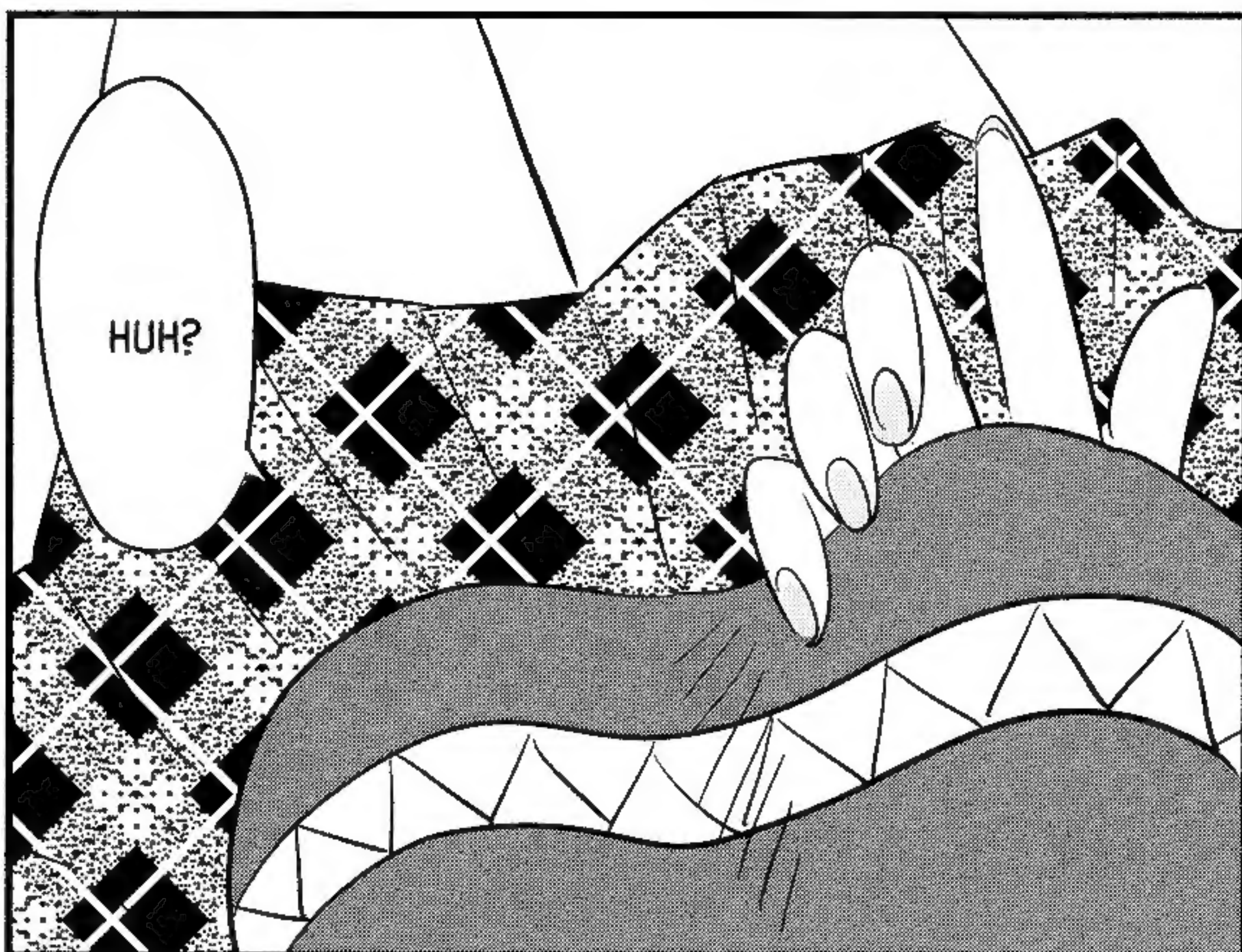
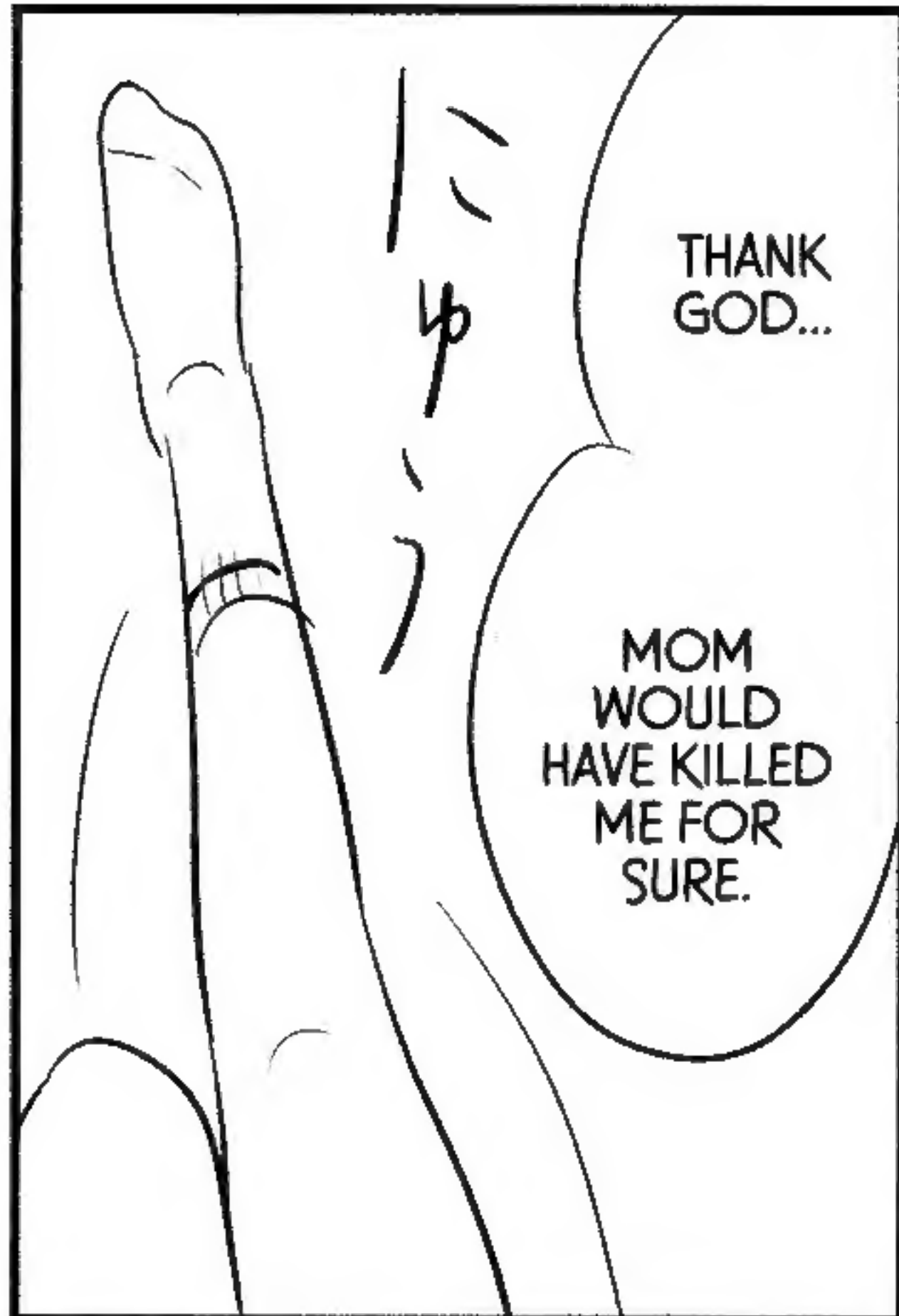
A FIRE?

NO,
WAIT,
BEFORE
THAT...

THERE'S
SMOKE
EVERYWHERE!

MOM'S
GOING
TO BE
REALLY
ANGRY!

IF SHE FINDS
OUT ABOUT THE
CIGARETTES,

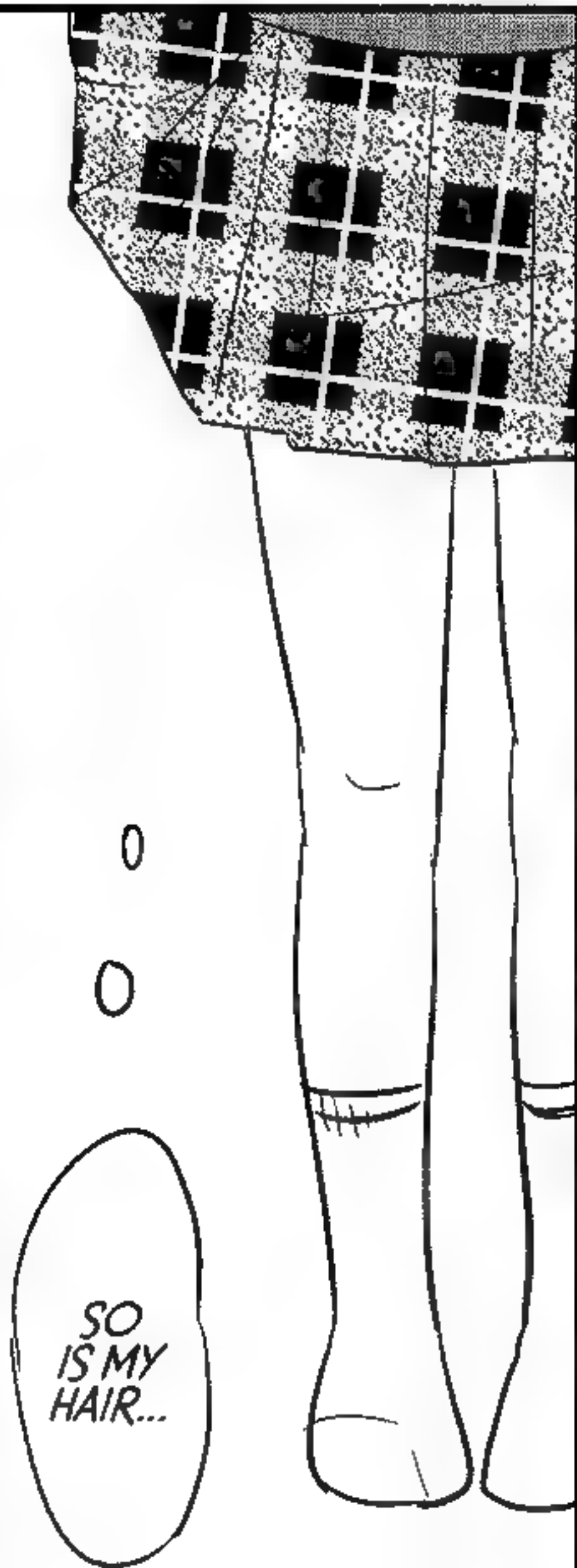
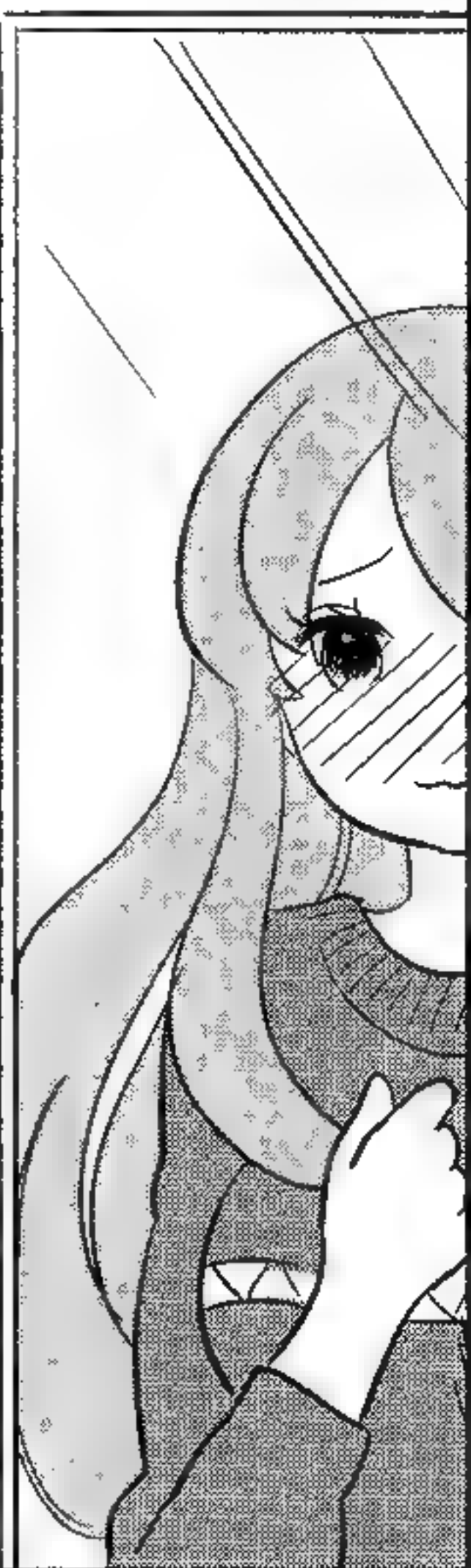




I'M
BIGGER...

HUH?

WHAT?!



SO
IS MY
HAIR...

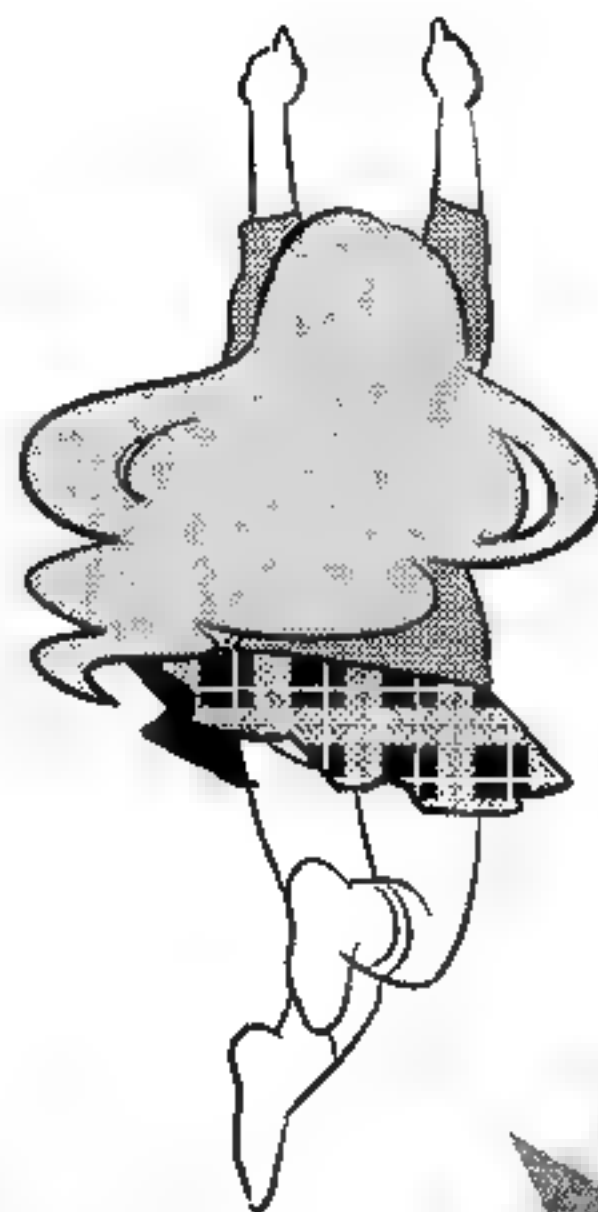


MY
BREASTS
ARE
BIGGER
TOO...

WHO
WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT
THAT THE
FAIRYTALE
HE ALWAYS
TELLS ME...

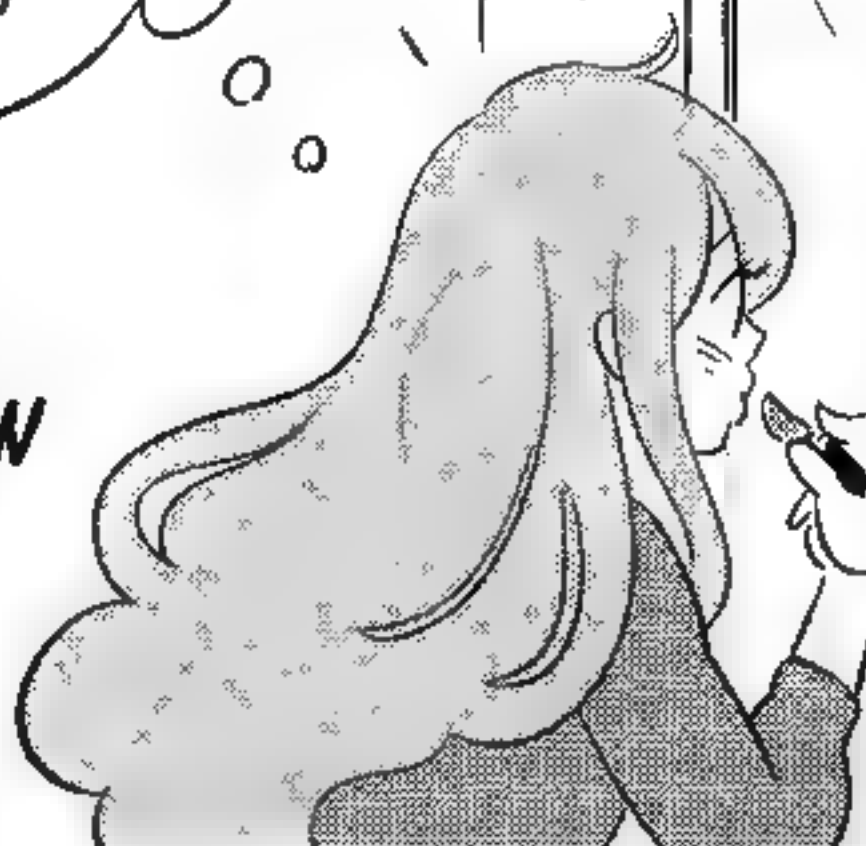
YEAH!!

WOO
HOO!



I'LL
MAKE
MYSELF
LOOK
MORE
ADULT

I'M SURE
SHOUICHI-KUN
WILL BE
HAPPY!



OH,
I KNOW!

WOULD
ACTUALLY
COME
TRUE?



AFTER A LOT OF
TWISTS AND TURNS,
I LEARN HOW TO USE MAGIC
AND WHEN SHOUICHI-KUN IS
IN A DESPERATE SITUATION,
I USE MY FLAME
MAGIC TO DEFEAT
THE DRAGON,
WHO ROARS IN
IT'S DEATH THROES,
AND THEN, AND THEN...

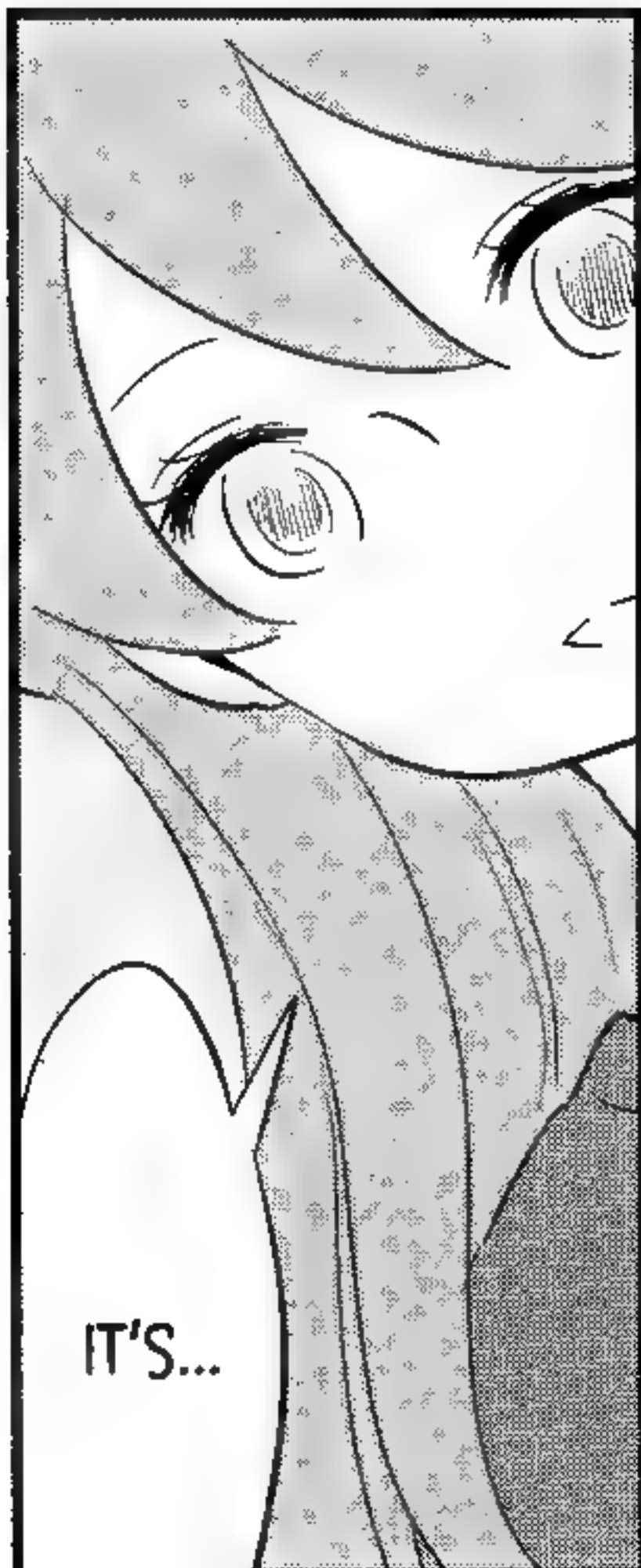
AFTER THAT,
WITH BARELY ENOUGH
TIME TO CATCH A BREATH,
A MESSENGER FROM THE
LAND OF MAGIC WILL APPEAR
AND TELL US THAT A HUGE
DRAGON IS ATTACKING
THEIR COUNTRY AND THEY
NEED OUR HELP.
AFTER GATHERING OUR
RESOLVE, WE HEAD OUT
ON OUR JOURNEY...

WITH ONE LOOK,
HE'LL KNOW IT'S
ME AND SAY,
"YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME
AN ADULT! I'VE WAITED FOR
THIS MOMENT!"
AND THEN, IN A FIT
OF JOY, HE WILL
TAKE MY HAND,
GIVE ME OUR
PROMISED KISS,
AND LOVE ME FIERCELY.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

AND THEN
WE BOTH LIVE
HAPPILY EVER
AFTER!





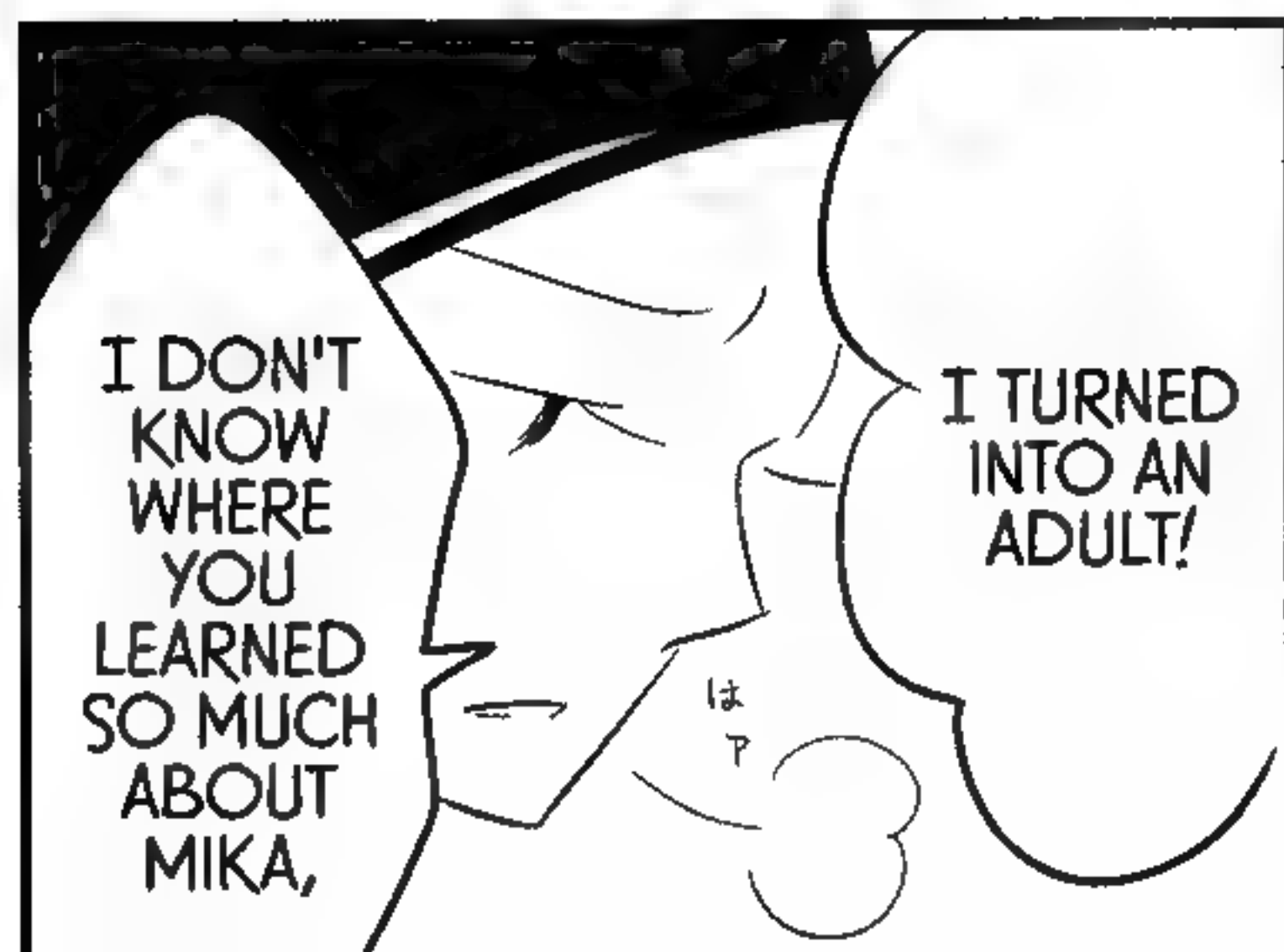
IT'S...



IT'S ME,
I SWEAR!

CUT IT OUT
OR I'LL
CONSIDER
THIS TRES-
PASSING.

IT'S TRUE
THAT YOU
DO LOOK
LIKE MIKA,
BUT SHE'S
NOT EVEN
CLOSE TO
BEING THAT
OLD,



I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
YOU
LEARNED
SO MUCH
ABOUT
MIKA,

I TURNED
INTO AN
ADULT!



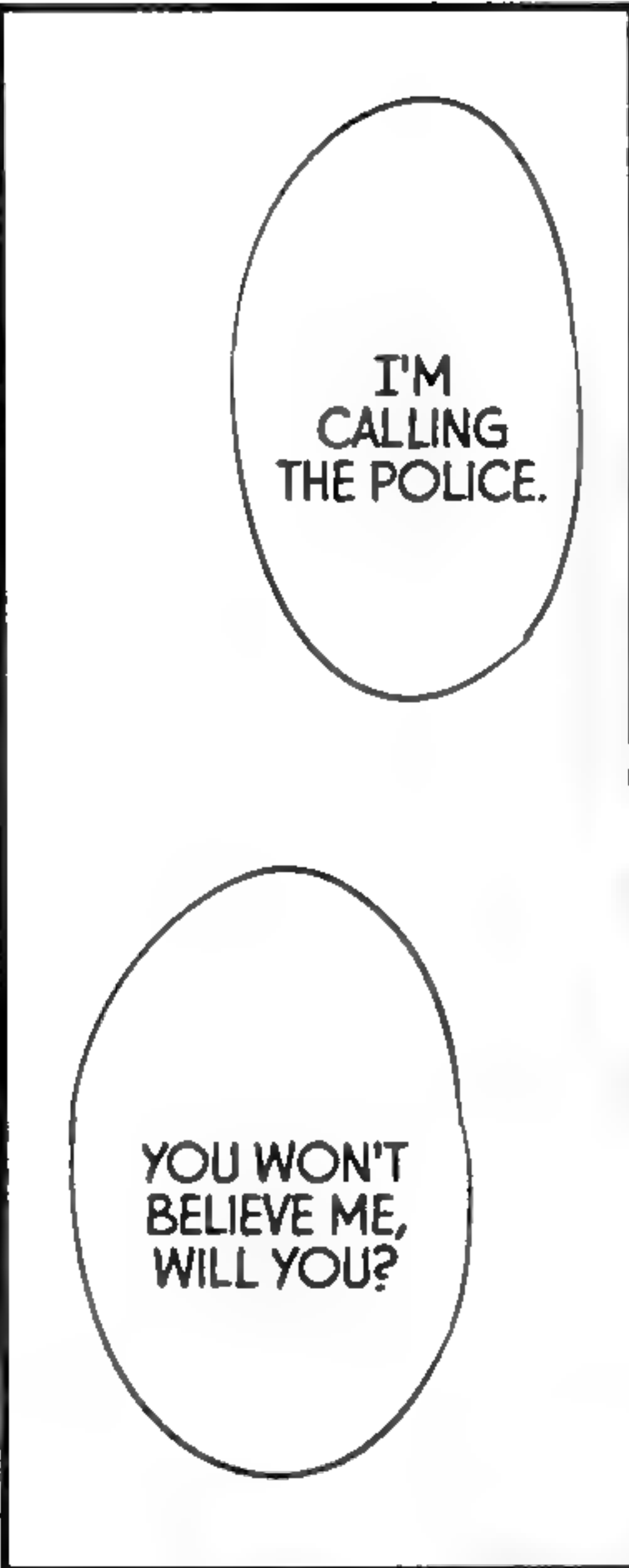
MY BODY
CHANGED
INTO THIS
AFTER
SMOKING
YOUR
CIGAR-
ETTES!

IT'S ME,
MIKA!

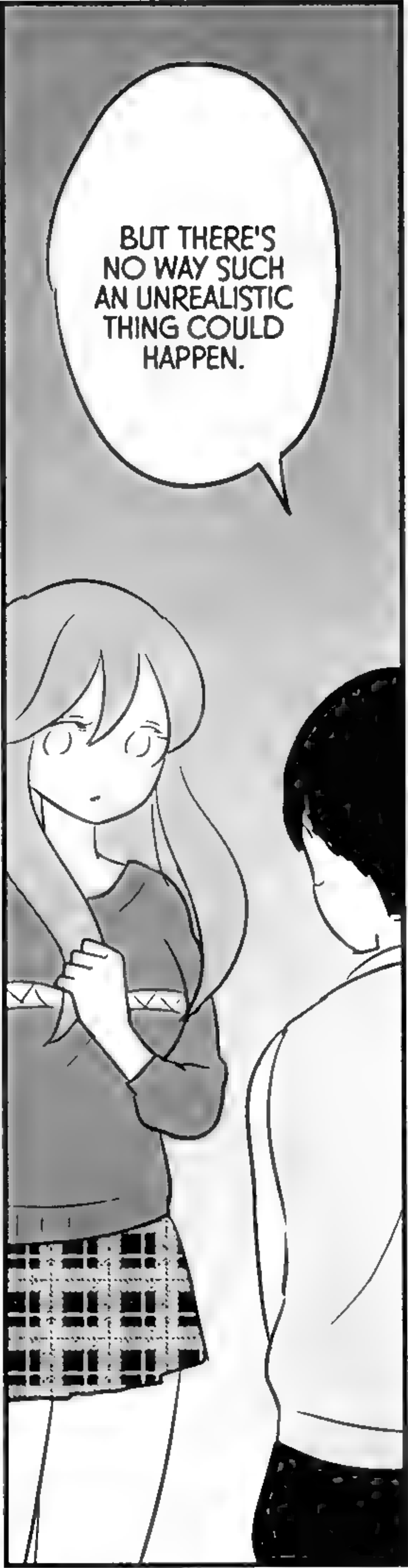
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



I'M
CALLING
THE POLICE.



YOU WON'T
BELIEVE ME,
WILL YOU?



BUT THERE'S
NO WAY SUCH
AN UNREALISTIC
THING COULD
HAPPEN.



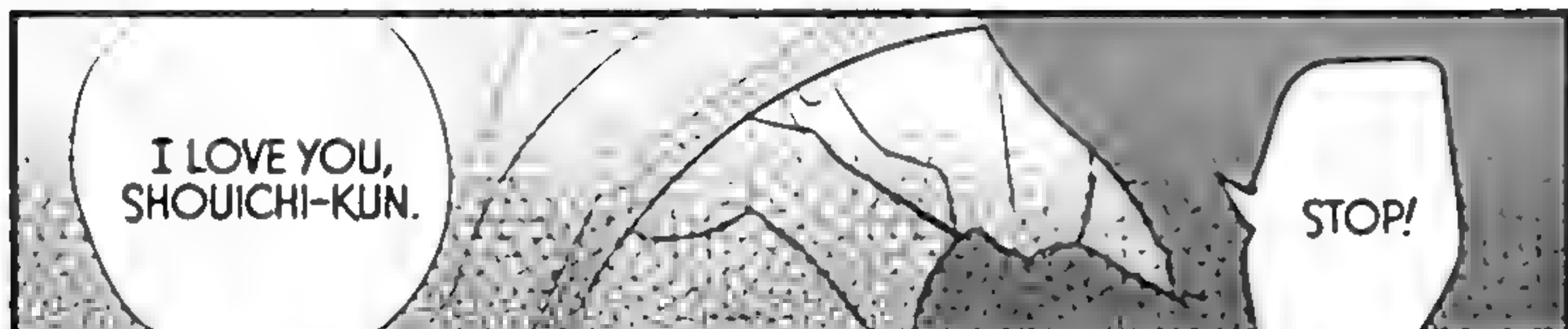
WHAT,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

WHY WON'T
YOU ACT LIKE
YOU ALWAYS
DO?



ST...

YOU'LL
GET IT IF I
DO THIS,
RIGHT?



I LOVE YOU,
SHOUICHI-KUN.

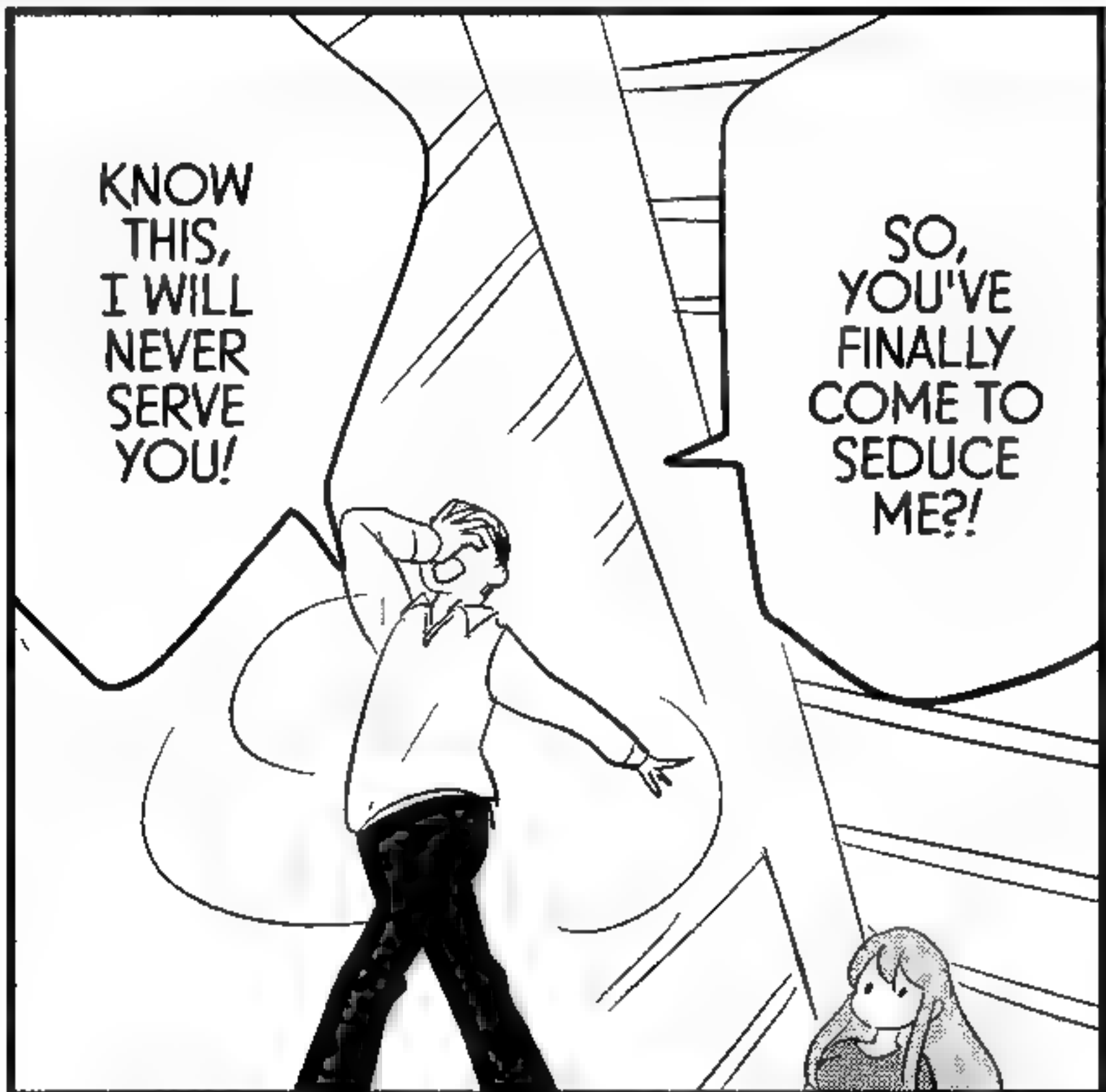
STOP!



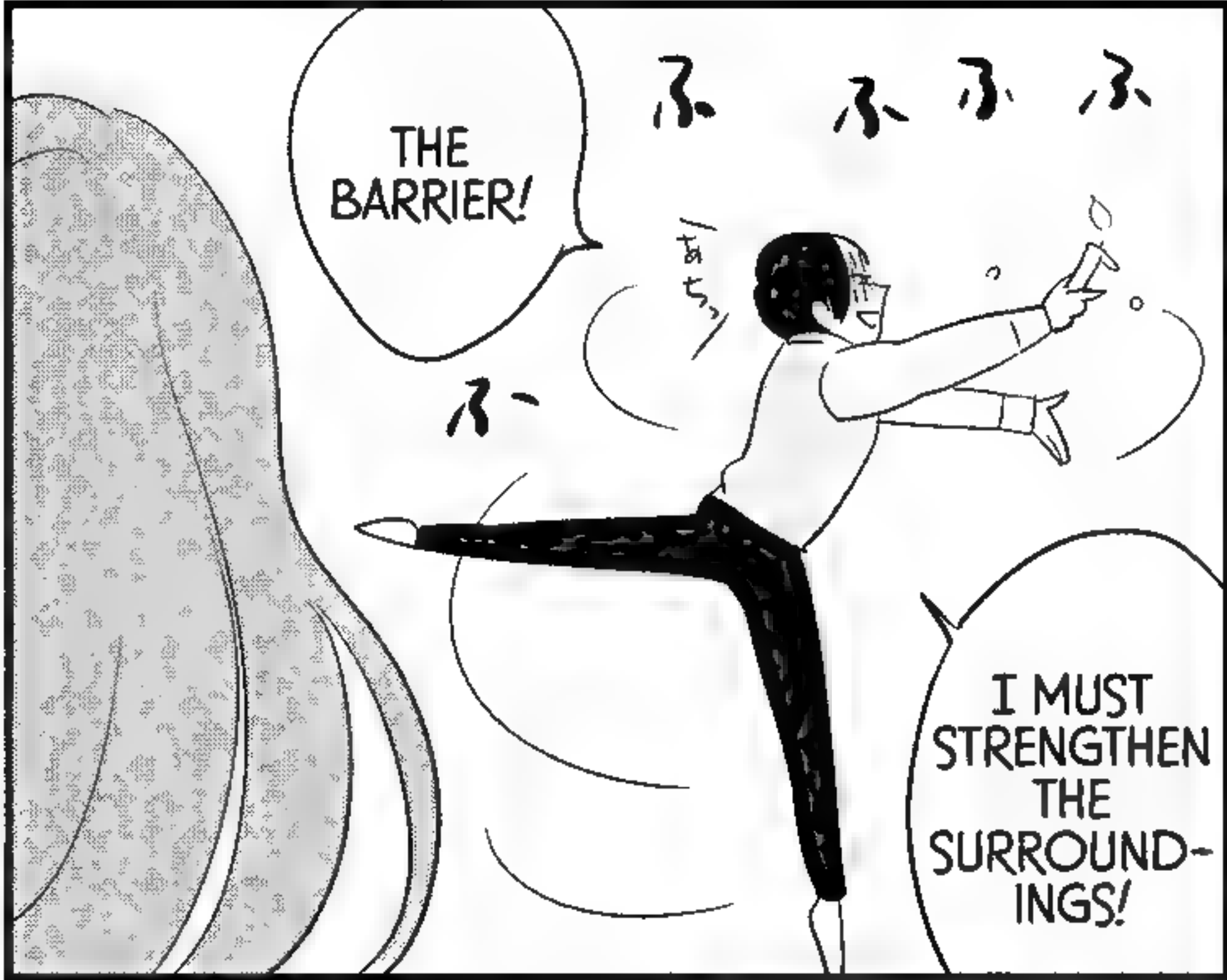
SHOUICHI
-KUN...

STOP
THAT...

I'VE LOVED
YOU FOR
A LONG TIME
NOW.







THE
BARRIER!

I MUST
STRENGTHEN
THE
SURROUND-
INGS!



IT'S
ME...

IT'S
MIKA.

HE
BELIEVES
IN DEMONS,



THE
BARRIER
NEEDS
TO BE
STRON-
GER!

SHOU-
ICHI
-KUN...



TO THINK
YOU EVEN
MANAGED
TO INTRUDE
ON THIS
HOLY
LAND...

I RAN
BACK HOME,
GOT IN BED,
AND AS I LAID
THERE IN TEARS,
HEARTBROKEN,
THE OMELETTE
AND STEW IN MY
STOMACH
WARMED
MY BODY AND
I DRIFTED OFF
INTO SLEEP.

BUT WOULDN'T
BELIEVE ME
UNTILL THE
VERY END.

MIKA...

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

CALL
THE PO...

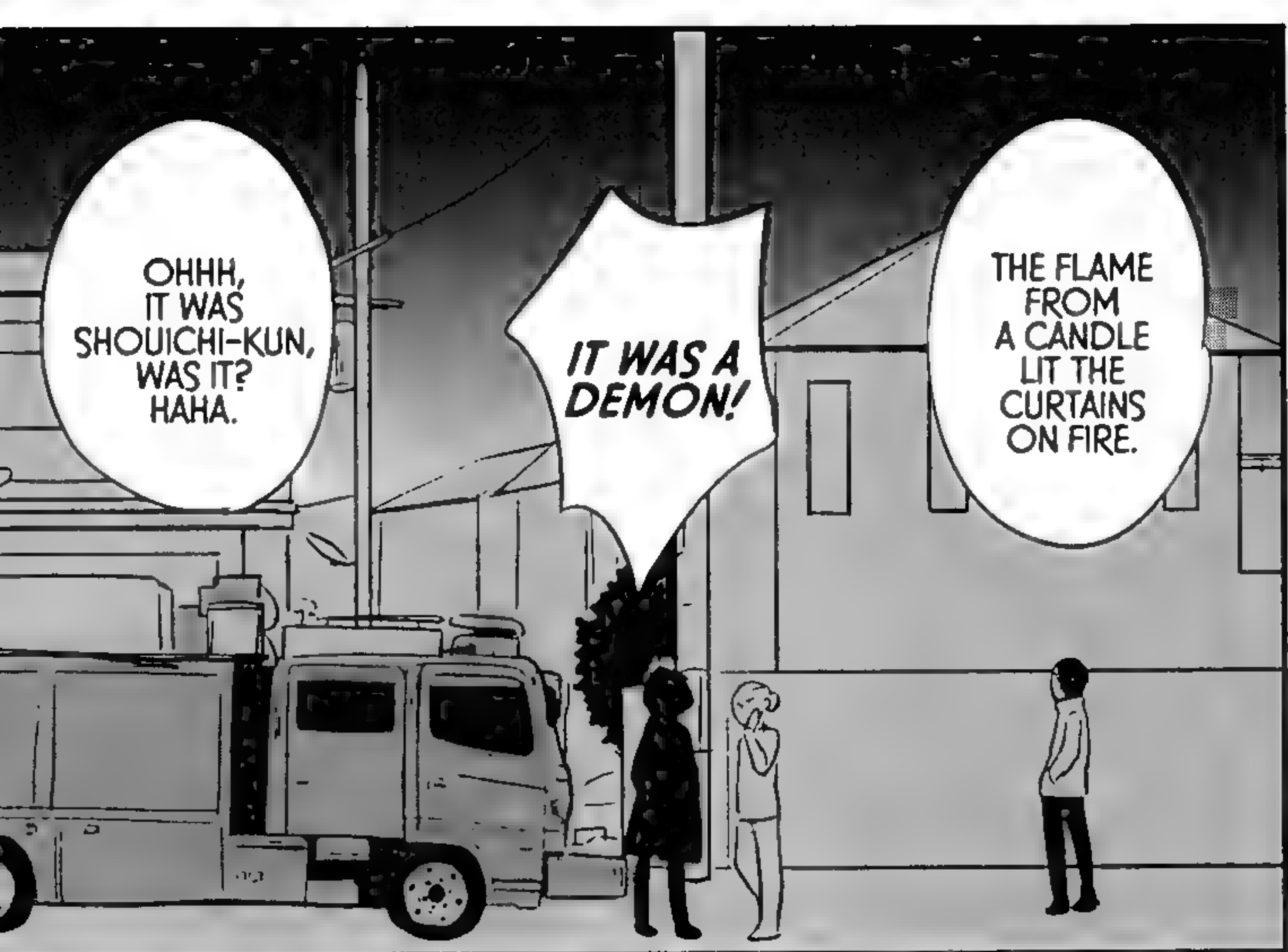
HURRY!

AND
THE
FIRE
DEP...

I THINK IT WAS
AROUND 2 A.M.
WHEN I WAS
AWOKEN BY MOM
AND DAD TALKING
DOWNSTAIRS.

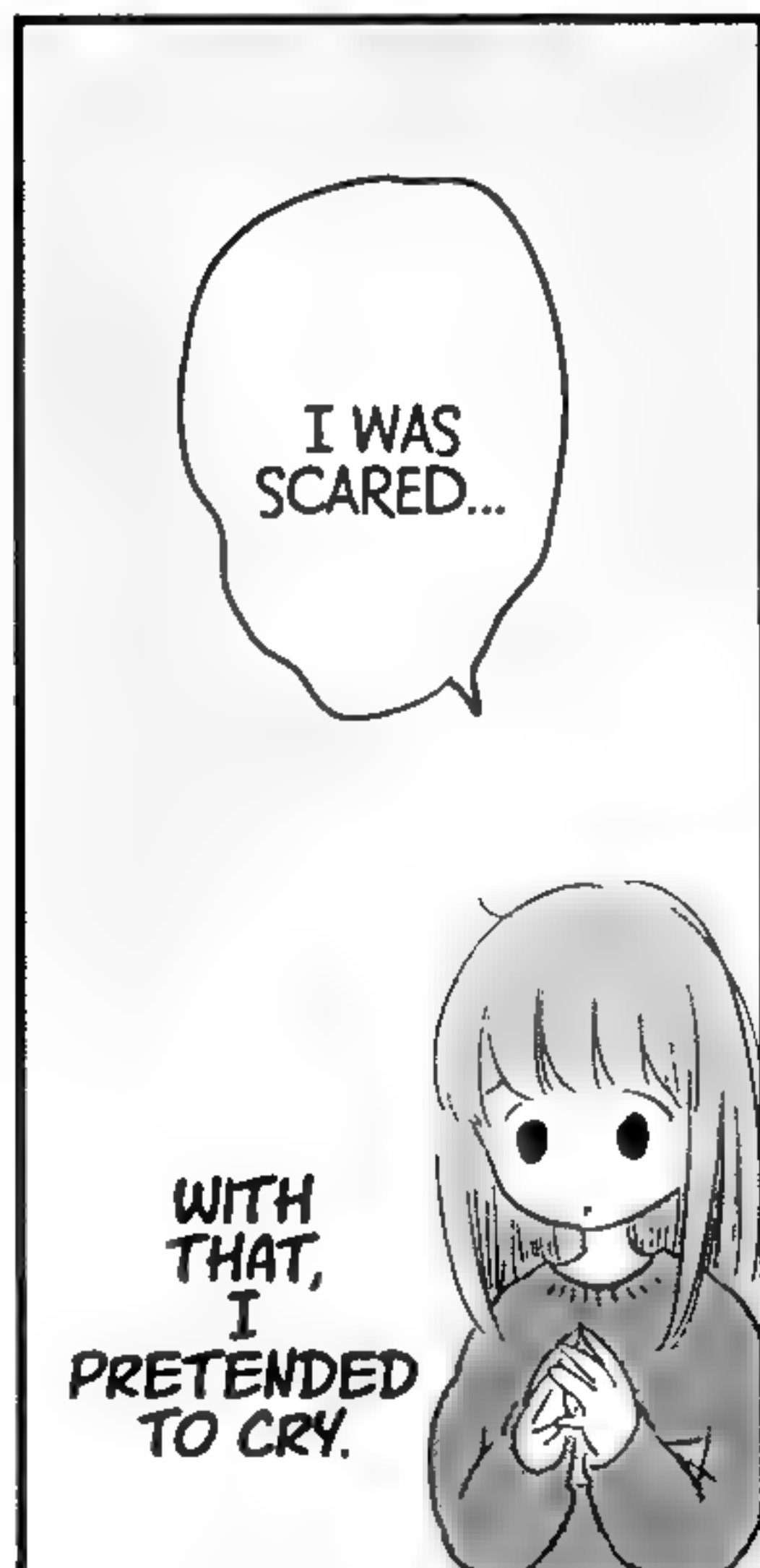
WHAT
IS THAT
NOISE?

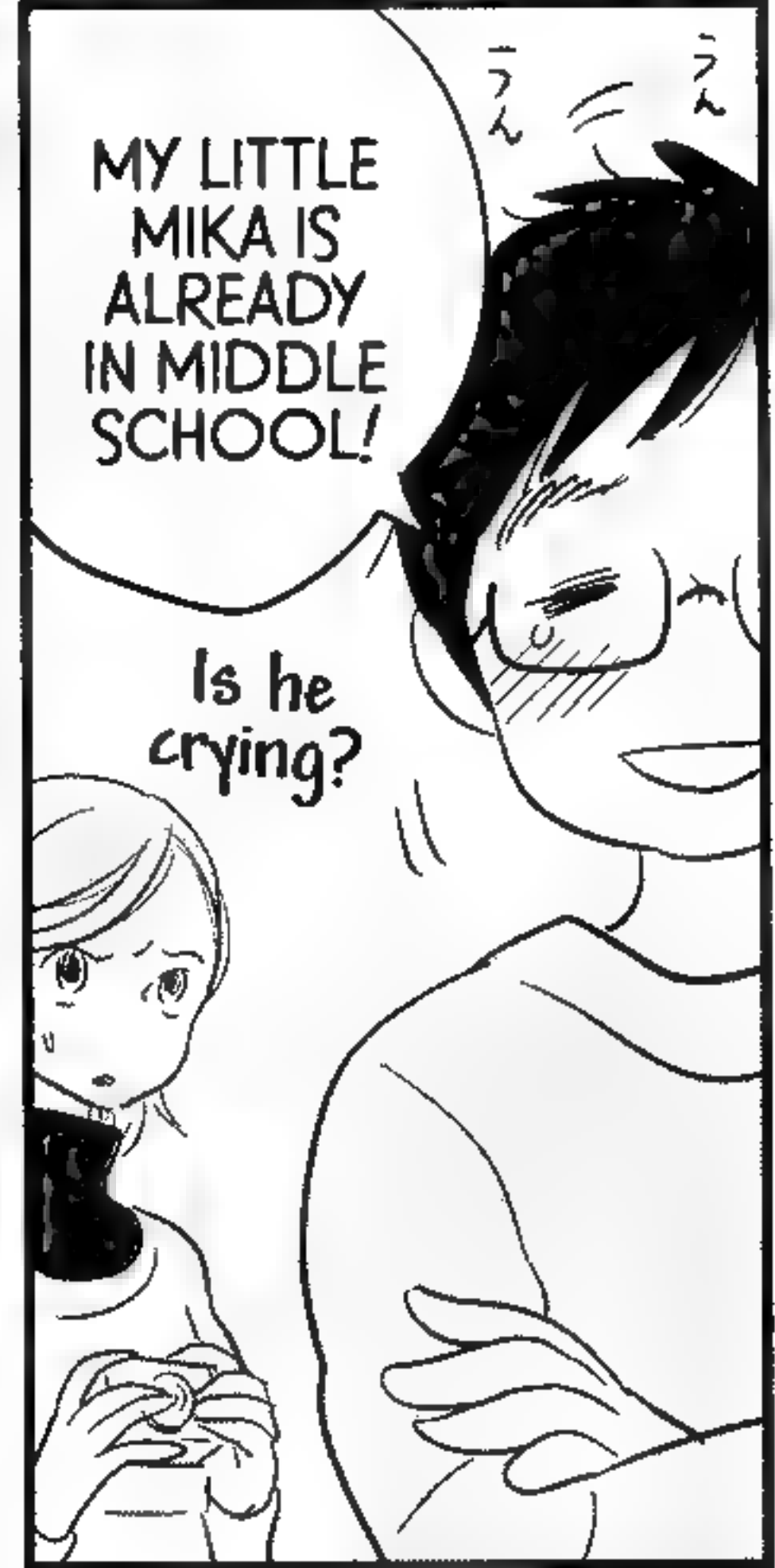
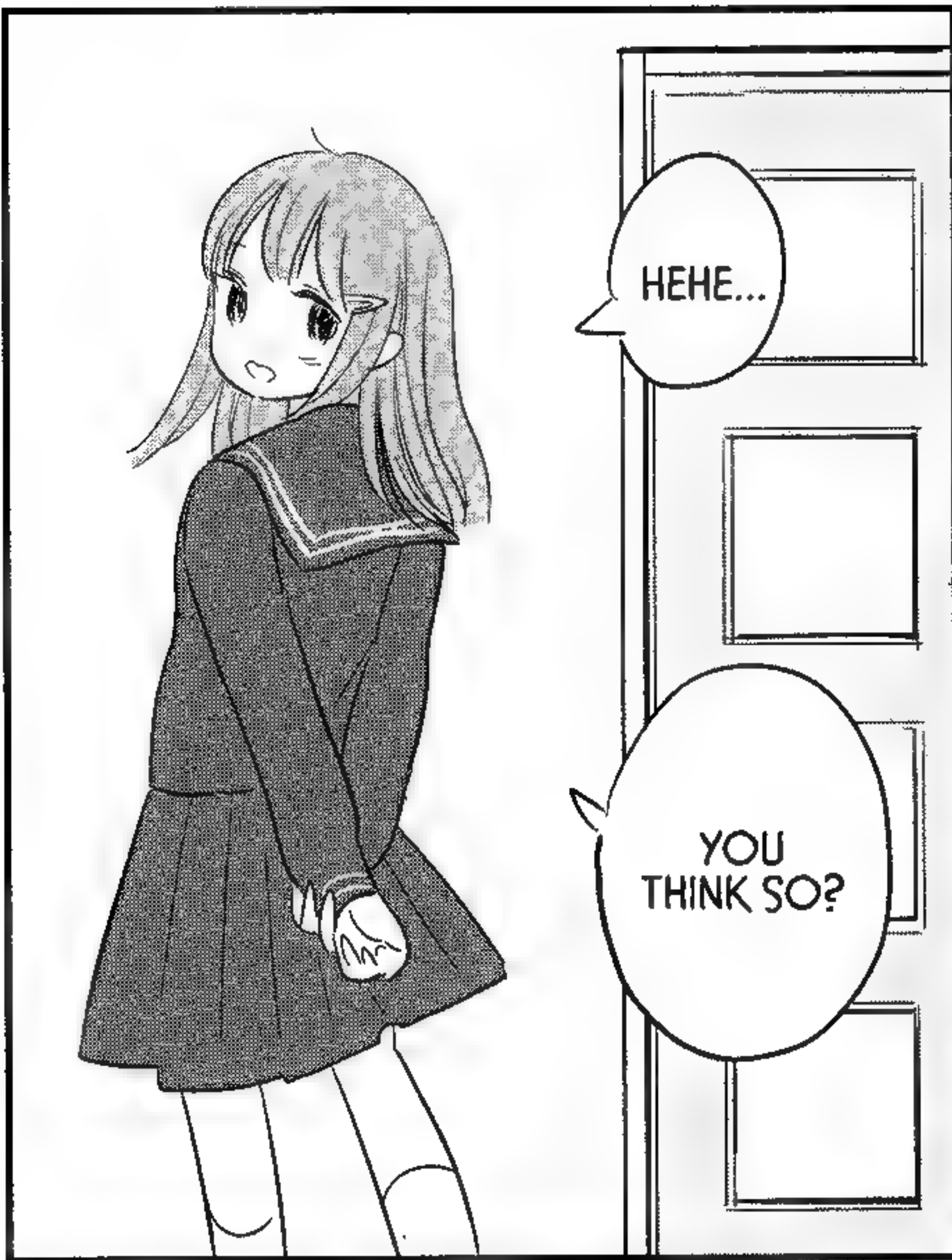














YAY!

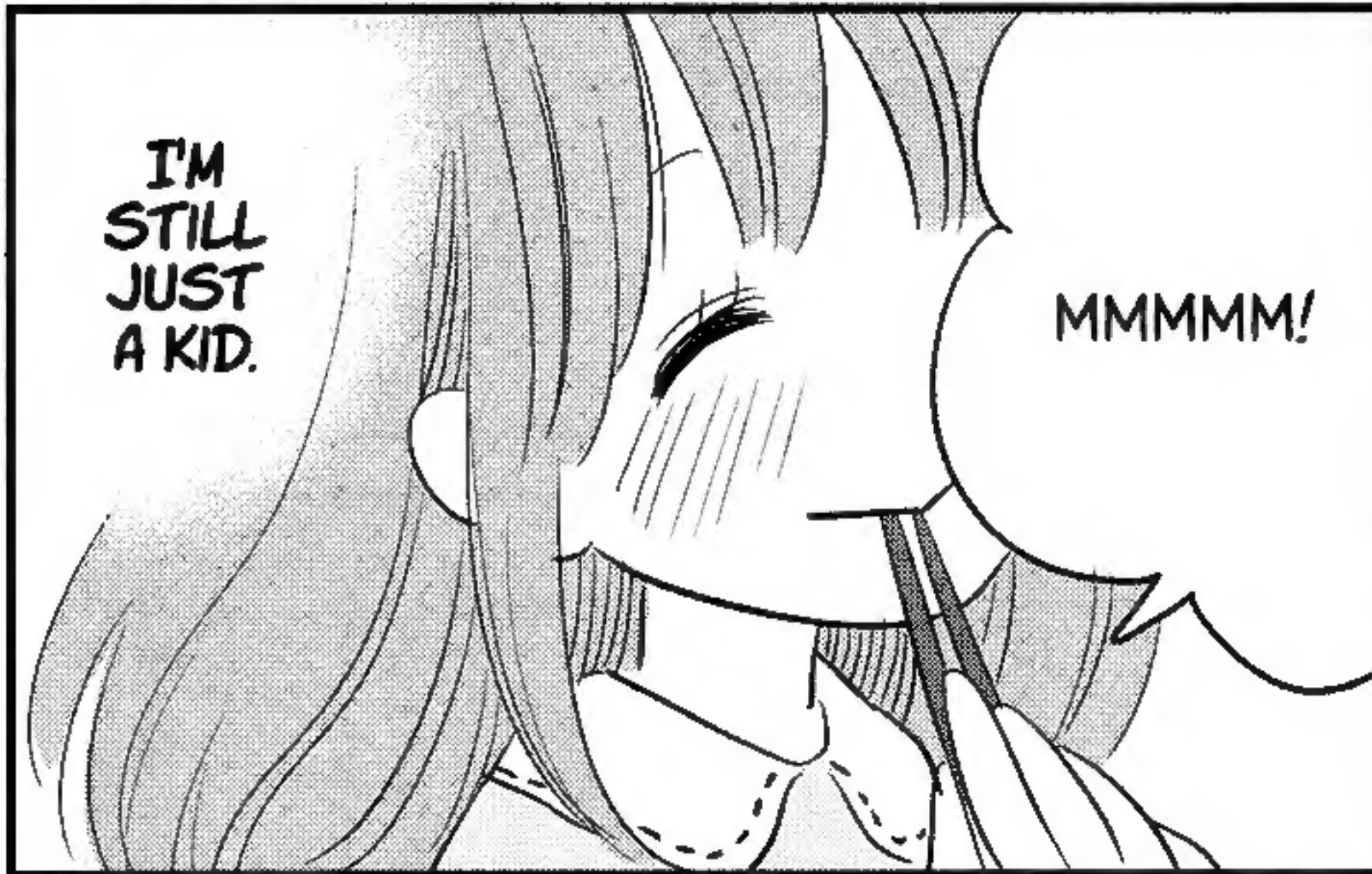
I MADE ALL
OF YOUR
FAVORITES FOR
YOU TODAY,
MIKA!

BY THE TIME
I STARTED
MIDDLE SCHOOL,
MY FAVORITE
FOODS HAD
BECOME CURRY,
FRIED CHICKEN,
AND SALISBURY
STEAK.



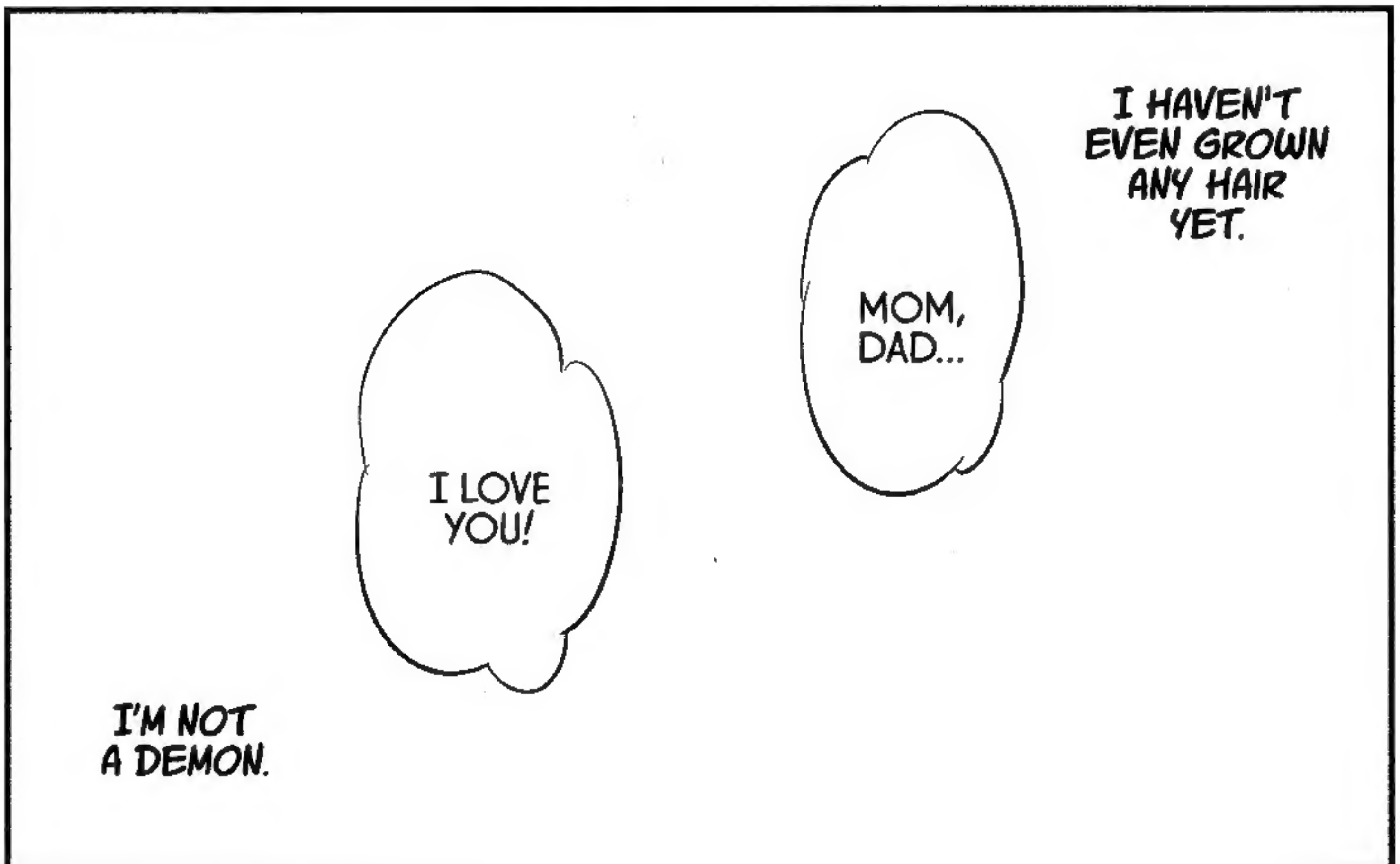
NOPE,
NOT AT
ALL!

THAT'S RIGHT,



I'M
STILL
JUST
A KID.

MMMMM!

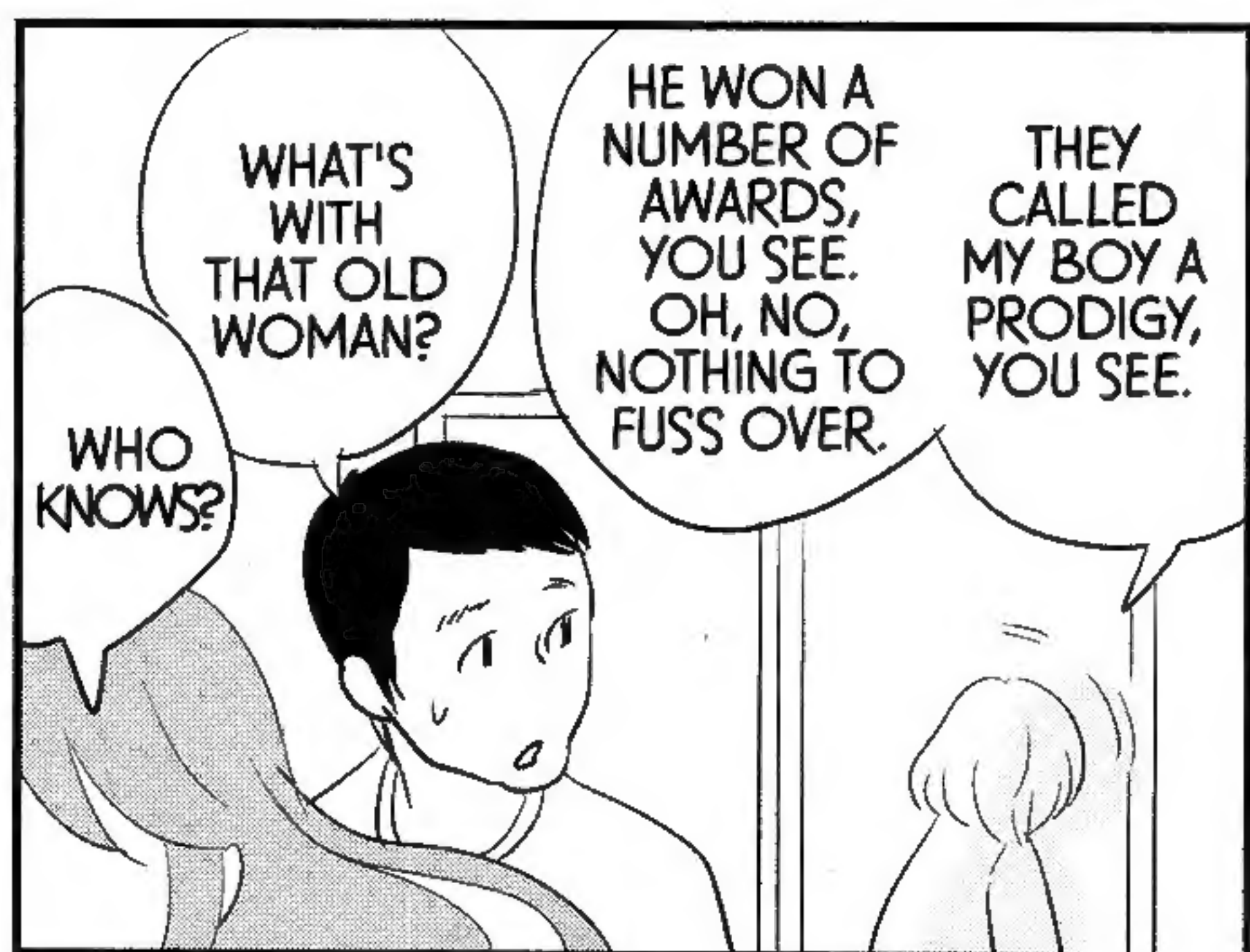
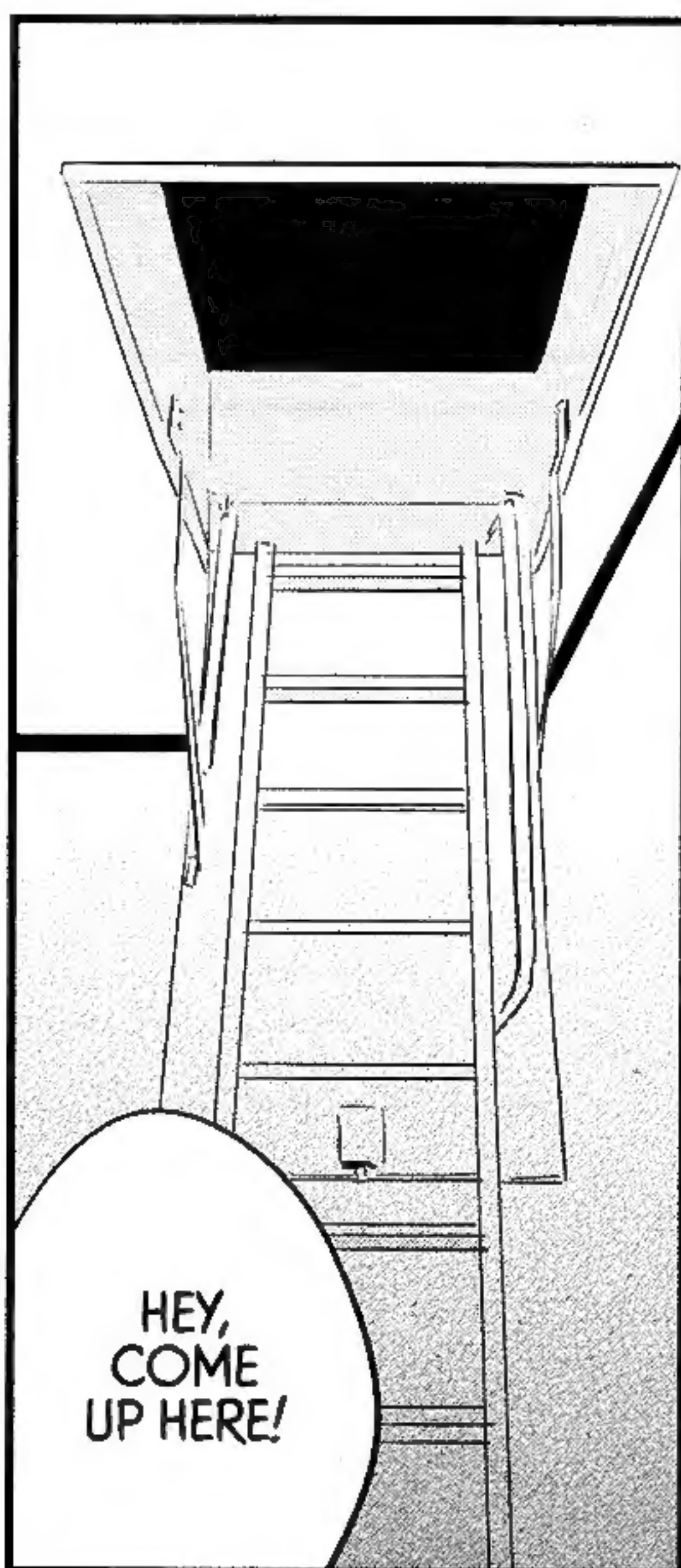


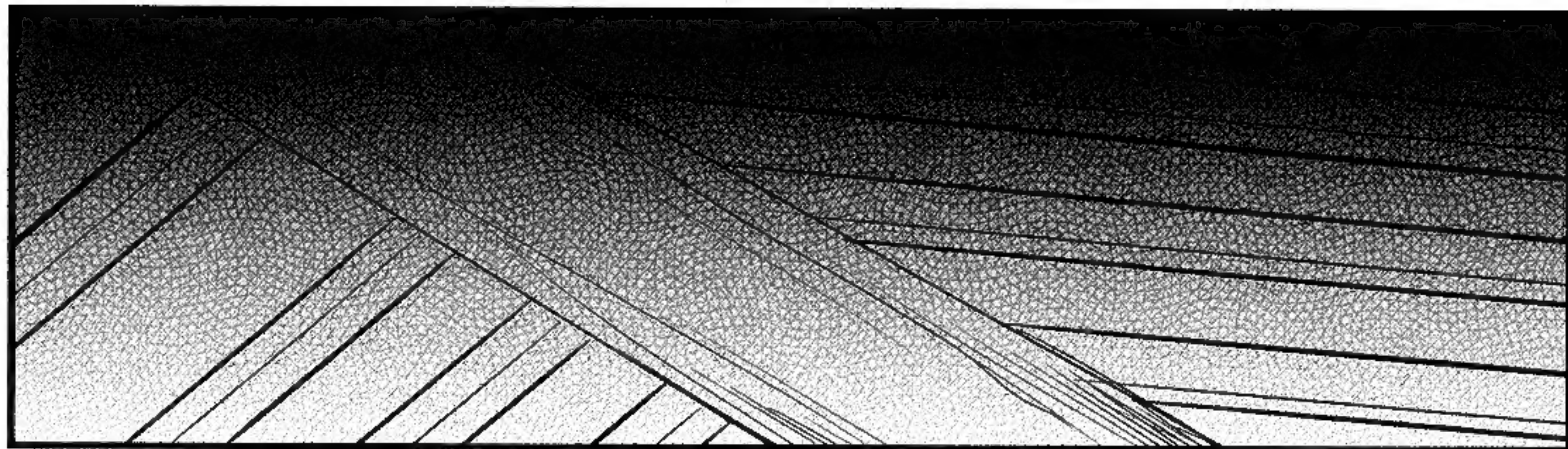
I HAVEN'T
EVEN GROWN
ANY HAIR
YET.

MOM,
DAD...

I LOVE
YOU!

I'M NOT
A DEMON.





THIS WEEK,
I'M THINKING ABOUT
SENDING SOME
GOLDEN CANDY
TO MY UNCLE.

RIGHT,

UNCLE?

おわり